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BATMAN

BAT MAN

NO. 259
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STARTLING!

YOU CAN SEE THE SHADOW-- BUT CAN YOU FIND BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE IN THIS PICTURE ?

MYSTIFYING! "TWO BATMEN TOO MANY!"

AMAZING! "THE STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN!"

WHO IS THIS BATMAN? READ "THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE!"

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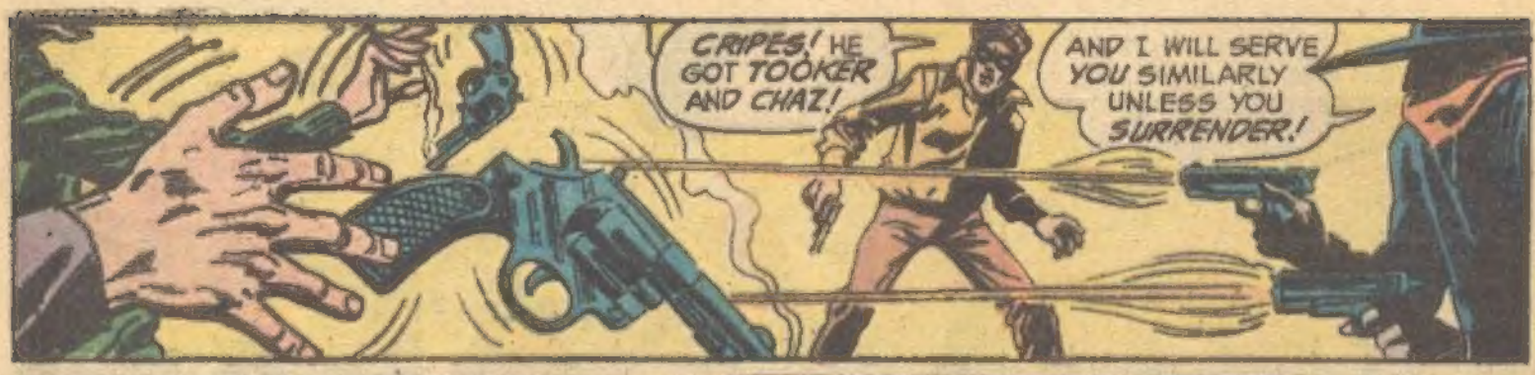
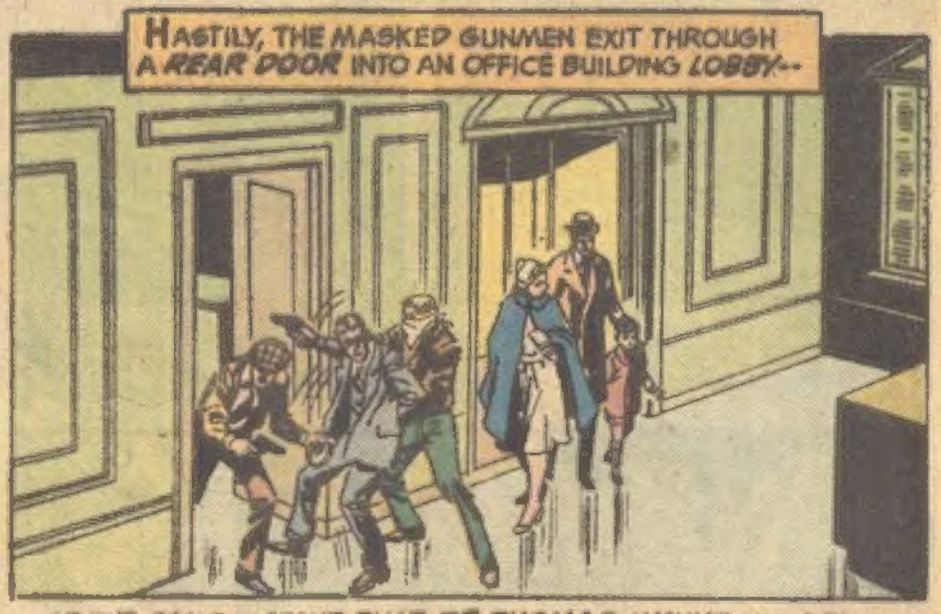
WAIT...YOU HAVE NOT OPENED THE WRONG MAGAZINE! THIS IS INDEED AN ALL-NEW TALE OF THE DREAD...
BATMAN
...AND, IN FACT, THE CAPED CRUSADER IS IN THIS SCENE! BUT YOU MAY NOT RECOGNIZE HIM... BECAUSE THE EVENT YOU ARE WITNESSING OCCURRED A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO!
BLAM - BLAM -
BLAM!
COME NOW, INTO THE PAST AND FOLLOW A TORTURED TRAIL OF GREED AND LONG-SMOLDERING HATRED! IT BEGINS WITH THIS PROLOGUE TO--
the NIGHT of the Shadow!
FROM THE COMBINED FILES OF THE BATMAN AND THE SHADOW
AS RECORDED BY--
DENNY O'NEIL - Writer
IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO - Artists
JULIUS SCHWARTZ - Editor
1

BUT WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE SWOFFORD JEWERLY STORE THERE IS EVIL...

AS YOU MAY HAVE DEDUCED, YOU ARE BEING ROBBED!
KINDLY HAND OVER THE STARLIGHT TIARA, OR MY ASSOCIATES AND I SHALL TAKE IT--
--FROM YOUR DEAD BODIES!



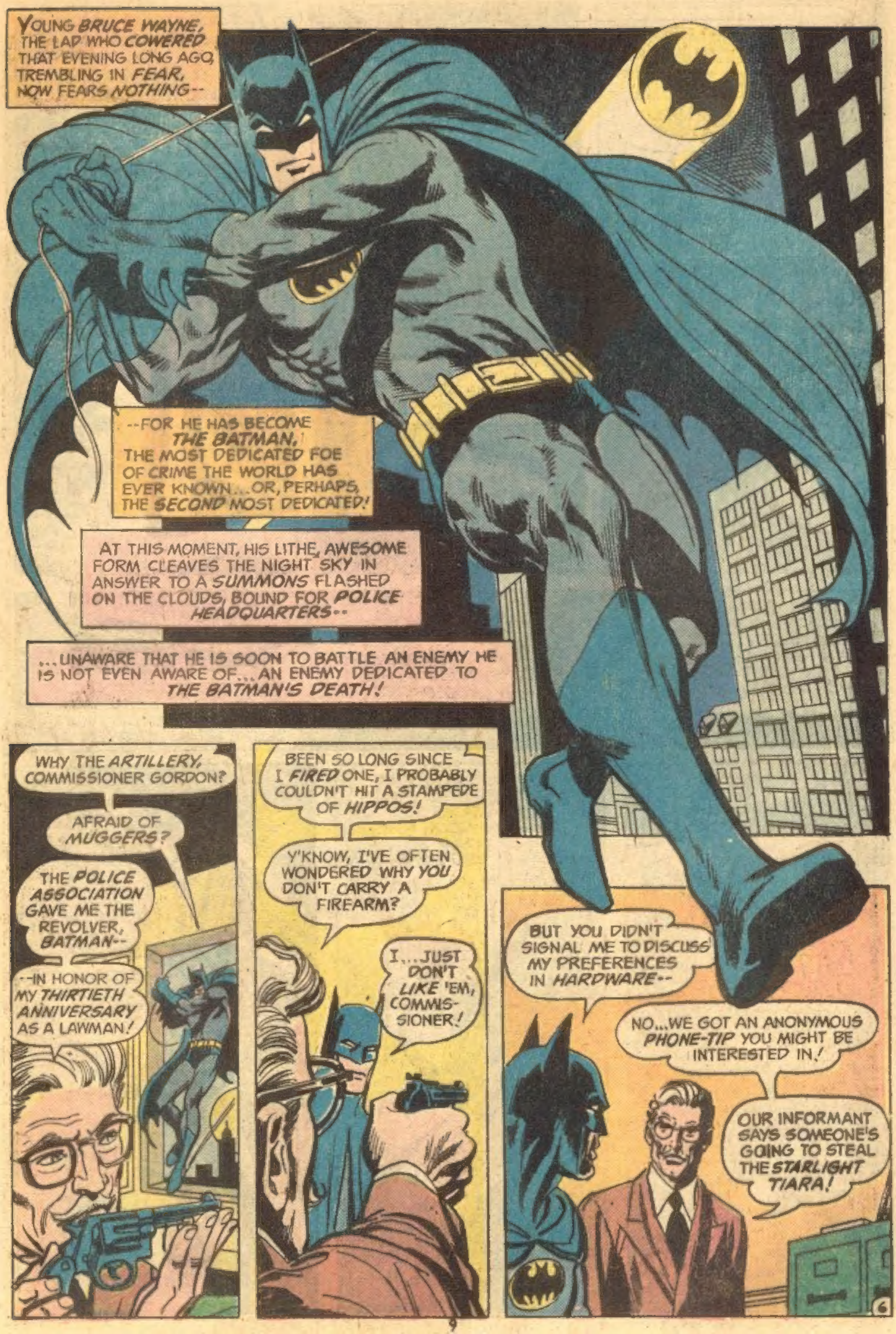


--AT THE SAME INSTANT THAT DR. THOMAS WAYNE, HIS SON BRUCE, AND NURSE MILDRED MILLER ARE STEPPING FROM AN ELEVATOR--

--AND A CAPRICIOUS FATE INTERVENES! THE NURSE ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLES AGAINST THE GUNMAN HOLDING SWOFFORD, FLAILS DESPERATELY TRYING TO REGAIN HER BALANCE, AND--

HIM AGAIN!
HOW'D HE GET THERE?
DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS!
SHOOT!
HA-HA-HA-
HA-HA-HA-HA
POW-
KPOW!
POW!
BLAM!
BLAM!
DOWN, EVERYONE--DOWN!
POW!
AND THE BOY IS BUFFETED BY SOUNDS--
BLAM-
BLAM-
BLAM!
--HORRIBLE SOUNDS OF GUNFIRE HE CAN'T SHUT OUT--
BLAM-
BLAM!
--SOUNDS THAT SEEM TO GO ON FOREVER...
BLAM
BLAM
4

THEN...ECHOING STILLNESS BROKEN ONLY BY WILLY HANK STAMPER'S HOARSE WORDS...
...SLUG SHATTERED MY ARM...
THE YOUNGSTER FEELS A GENTLE TOUCH AND HEARS AN ICY VOICE TINGED WITH KINDNESS--
STAND, BOY! THE DANGER IS PAST!
THE SHADOW'S VANISHED!
--BEFORE WE COULD THANK HIM!
YOU'RE STAYING PUT, MISTER--UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE!
PLEASE, DADDY... DON'T HOLD THE GUN!
GUNS SCARE ME!
SOME TIME LATER, YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE LOOKS ON IN HORROR AS HIS PARENTS ARE CALLOUSLY GUNNED DOWN ON A CITY STREET--
--AND THROUGHOUT ALL THE FOLLOWING YEARS, WILLY HANK STAMPER BROODS BEHIND PRISON WALLS...
...BROODS AND TRAINS HIS BODY AS HE PLANS HIS REVENGE!


YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE, THE LAD WHO COWERED THAT EVENING LONG AGO, TREMBLING IN FEAR, NOW FEARS NOTHING--
--FOR HE HAS BECOME THE BATMAN, THE MOST DEDICATED FOE OF CRIME THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN...OR, PERHAPS, THE SECOND MOST DEDICATED!
AT THIS MOMENT, HIS LITHE, AWESOME FORM CLEAVES THE NIGHT SKY IN ANSWER TO A SUMMONS FLASHED ON THE CLOUDS, BOUND FOR POLICE HEADQUARTERS--
...UNAWARE THAT HE IS SOON TO BATTLE AN ENEMY HE IS NOT EVEN AWARE OF...AN ENEMY DEDICATED TO THE BATMAN'S DEATH!
WHY THE ARTILLERY, COMMISSIONER GORDON?
AFRAID OF MUGGERS?
THE POLICE ASSOCIATION GAVE ME THE REVOLVER, BATMAN--
--IN HONOR OF MY THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY AS A LAWMAN!
BEEN SO LONG SINCE I FIRED ONE, I PROBABLY COULDN'T HIT A STAMPEDE OF HIPPOS!
Y'KNOW, I'VE OFTEN WONDERED WHY YOU DON'T CARRY A FIREARM?
I...JUST DON'T LIKE 'EM, COMMISSIONER!
BUT YOU DIDN'T SIGNAL ME TO DISCUSS MY PREFERENCES IN HARDWARE--
NO...WE GOT AN ANONYMOUS PHONE-TIP YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN!
OUR INFORMANT SAYS SOMEONE'S GOING TO STEAL THE STARLIGHT TIARA!
6

IT'LL BE ON DISPLAY TOMORROW AT THE GOTHAM GALLERY... A BAUBLE MADE OF PLATINUM--
--AND STUDDED WITH DIAMONDS!
I'M FAMILIAR WITH IT!
IN FACT, I HAVE AN IDEA WHO MIGHT WANT TO SWIPE IT!
I'LL GET BACK TO YOU, COMMISSIONER!
AND IN A NEARBY ALLEY--
WHILE I'M IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, BRUCE WAYNE MIGHT AS WELL LOOK IN ON NURSE MILDRED MILLER!
POOR OLD MILDRED... SHE NEVER QUITE RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK OF THAT GUNFIGHT 25 YEARS AGO!
SHE AGED OVERNIGHT AND HAS LIVED IN THIS HOME EVER SINCE!
HOME FOR THE AGED
ODD GORDON SHOULD MENTION THE STARLIGHT TIARA ON THE VERY NIGHT I'LL BE SEEING MILDRED...
HELPP!!
THAT'S HER VOICE!
SOMETHING'S TERRIFYING HER!
BY THE TIME BRUCE WAYNE COULD CLIMB THE STAIRS TO THE ROOF, IT COULD BE TOO LATE--
--BATMAN CAN GET THERE FASTER BY ROPE!
7

WITHIN SECONDS...
WHY ARE YOU MENACING US--IS IT MY JEWEL BOX? YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!
I SEEK REVENGE, NOT YOUR PALTRY GOODS!
PLEASE-- YOU'RE HURTING MY ARM!
MILDRED... OUT FOR HER NIGHTLY BREATH OF AIR... ABOUT TO BE WHEELED OFF THE ROOF!
HELP! HELP!
AGGER!
WHAM!
YOU MUST BE THE BATMAN!
I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD NOTION WHO YOU ARE, TOO!
ONCE YOU WERE ASKED TO SURRENDER! YOU REFUSED--
--AND I STILL REFUSE!
A SOLID PUNCH--!
YOU'D THINK HIS YEARS BEHIND BARS WOULD'VE WEAKENED
POW
HE'S FAST, TOO!
CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANOTHER OF HIS EXPLOSIVE BLOWS!
6

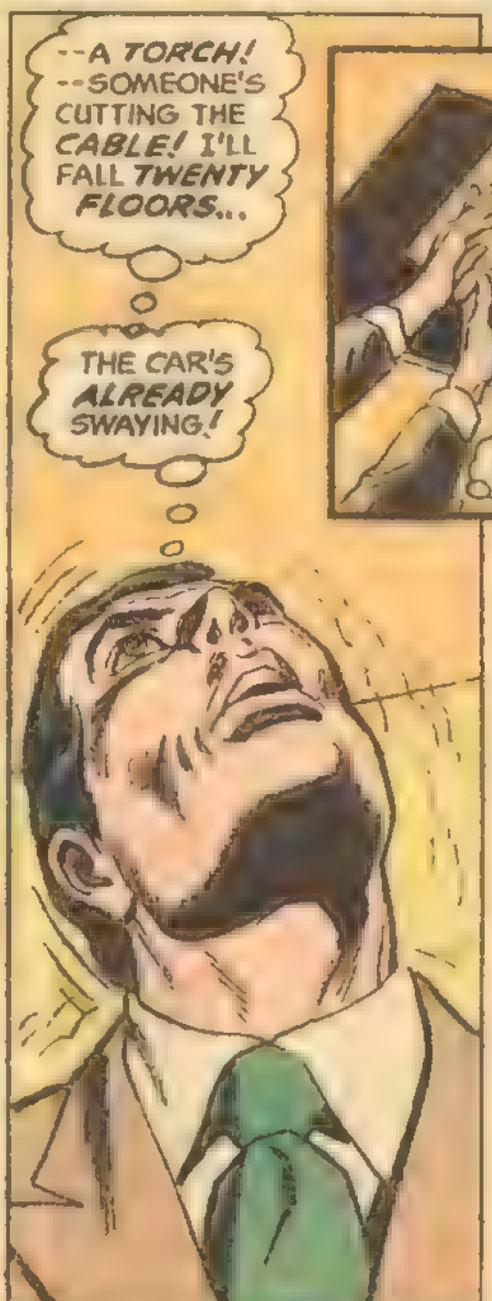
THEY DIDN'T TEACH JUDO IN JAIL, DID THEY--?
EEE-- YAH!
MAYBE YOU CAN START A COURSE IN IT...
...WHEN YOU RETURN--
- WHICH YOU WILL!
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRE-ESCAPE YOU'RE RUNNING FOR BEFORE I--
AGGG-- MY HEART!
BATMAN-- MR. SWOFFORD'S ILL!
HELP HIM! HURRY!
SWOFFORD... THE JEWELER?!
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS LIVING HERE!
POOR OLD MAN... THE EXCITEMENT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM!
CAN'T LET HIM DIE... EVEN IF IT MEANS LETTING MY FOE ESCAPE!
WHAT WENT UP FAST...
...WILL GO DOWN EVEN FASTER!
DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN RACES TO SAVE A LIFE--
9

AND FAILS...
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, BATMAN! YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD!
THAT'S NOT A WHOLE LOT OF CONSOLATION, DOCTOR!
THORNTON SWOFFORD WAS MY FRIEND...
AND NOW, ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HIM ARE HIS BOX AND HIS TRINKETS!
BATMAN... YOU MUST CATCH THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH!
I WILL, MISS MILLER! I SWEAR IT!
FORGIVE ME... I WANT TO PRAY!
SWOFFORD'S BOX... GONE!?
AN HOUR LATER, BRUCE WAYNE RETURNS HOME...
WILLY HANK STAMPER WAS RELEASED LAST WEEK! I'M SURE IT WAS HIM I FOUGHT ON THE ROOF!
HE OBVIOUSLY BLAMES MILDRED FOR INTERFERING WITH HIS GETAWAY 25 YEARS AGO--
10

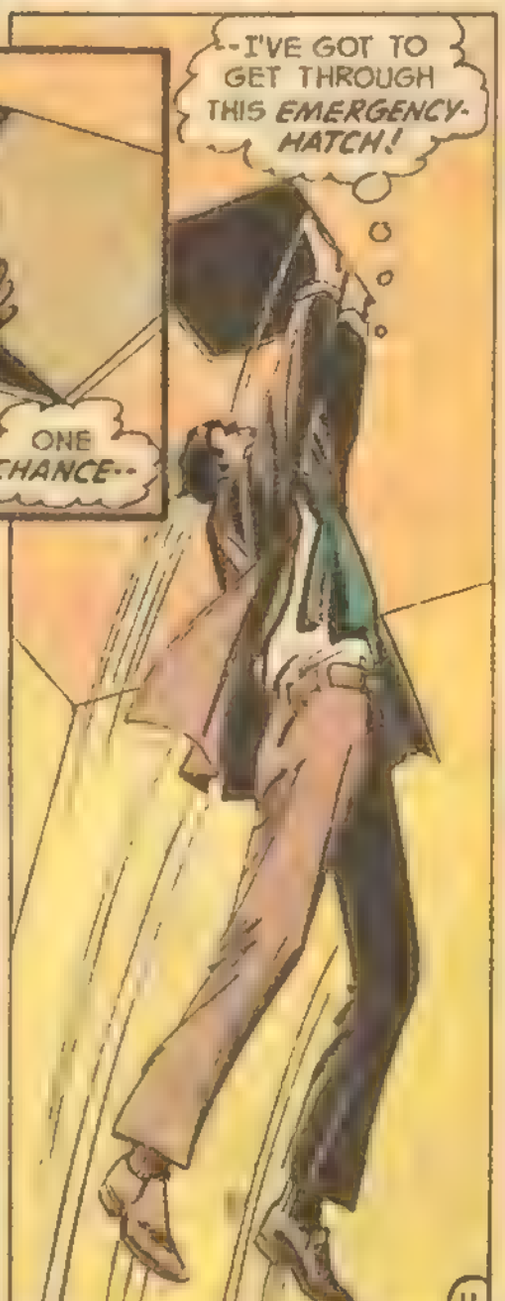
--BUT HOW DID HE STEAL SWOFFORD'S BOX--AND WHY?
--THAT IS, ASSUMING STAMPER DID IT!
MAYBE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP WILL HELP ME UNSCRAMBLE THIS PUZZLE!

EH--? THE ELEVATOR STOPPED SHORT JUST BELOW MY PENTHOUSE!
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 P

SSS.
SSSSSSS
I HEAR A.... HISSING--


--A TORCH! --SOMEONE'S CUTTING THE CABLE! I'LL FALL TWENTY FLOORS...
THE CAR'S ALREADY SWAYING!

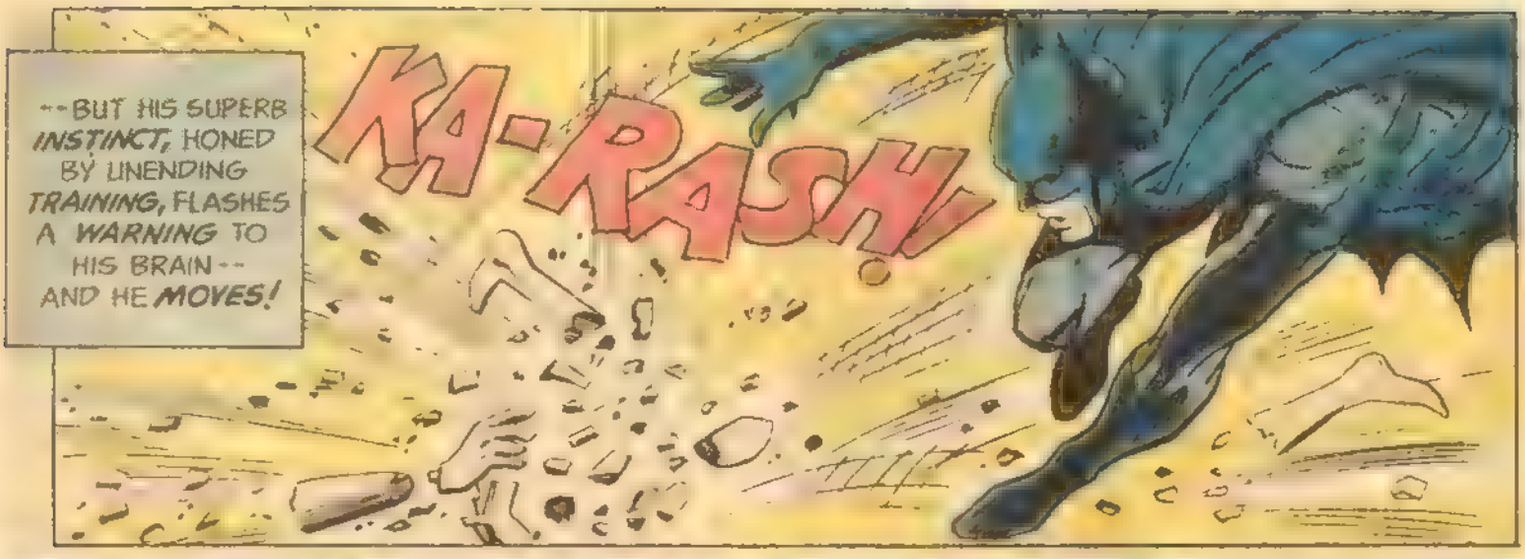
ONE CHANCE--

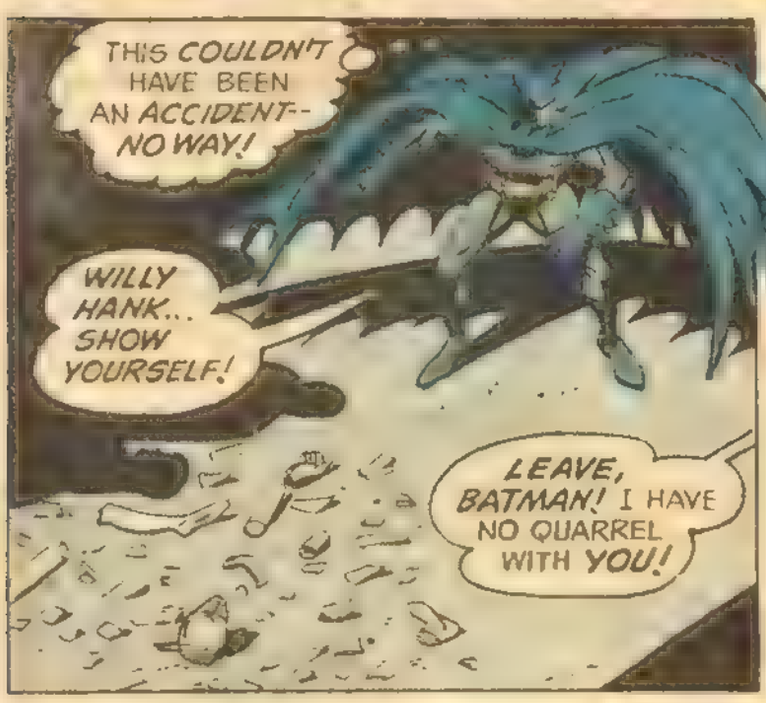

--I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THIS EMERGENCY-HATCH!
11

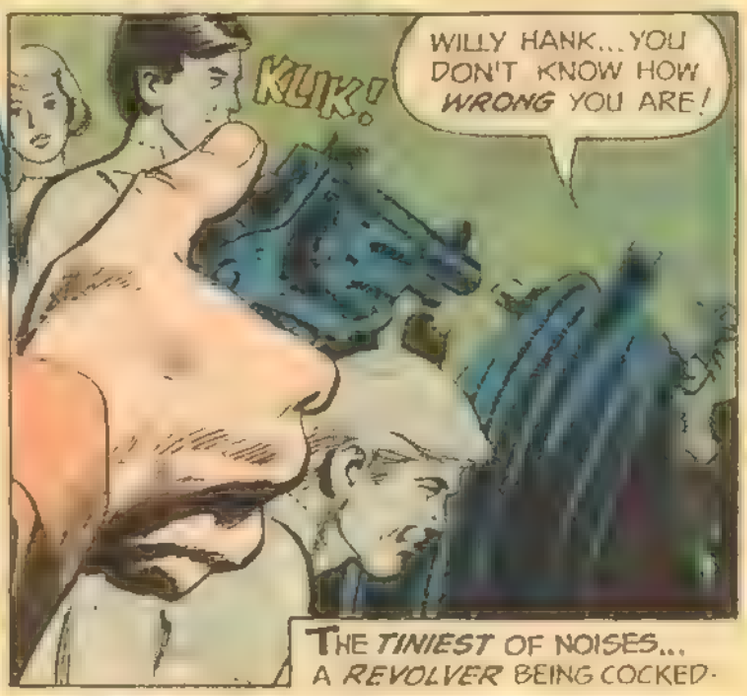
THE LAST STRAND OF THE CABLE'S PARTED!
THE CAR IS DROPPING--
--DROPPING DOWN, DOWN ...AND THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE SKYSCRAPER SHAKES AS...
K-RAAASSSH!
WHEW-!! I OWE THE ARCHITECT WHO PLACED AN ACCESS LADDER IN THIS PARTICULAR SPOT A CHRISTMAS PRESENT --A BIG ONE!
OBVIOUSLY, WILLY HANK INCLUDED BRUCE WAYNE IN HIS CAMPAIGN OF REVENGE!
LATE THE FOLLOWING EVENING, BRUCE WAYNE JOINS THE CITY'S SOCIETY LIGHTS AT THE GOTHAM GALLERY...
ACCORDING TO COMMISSIONER GORDON'S TIP, A THIEF SHOULD STRIKE HERE THIS EVENING--
RARE GEM EXHIBIT
--AND I HAVE A HUNCH THAT RIP-OFF ARTIST WILL BE MY WOULD-BE KILLER --WILLY HANK!
AND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I PRESENT THE INCOMPARABLE STARLIGHT TIARA..!
EH--? WHAT'S THIS...? A NOTE--
12

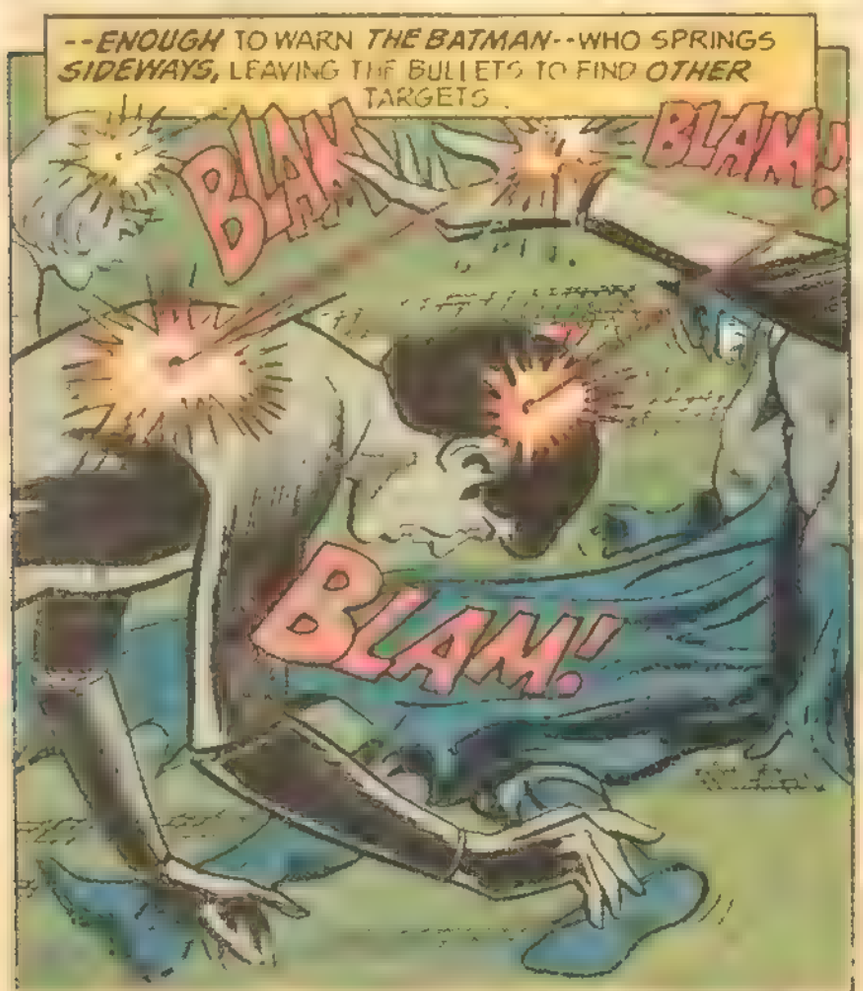
-IT SAYS THE TIARA IS A FAKE!
WHAT--A FAKE--?!
PREPOSTEROUS!
BUT-- LET ME EXAMINE IT CLOSELY!
THE TIARA IS INDEED PHONY... AN INGENIOUS COUNTERFEIT OF CHEAP METAL AND GLASS!
BUT--BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WE'VE HAD GUARDS EVERY MOMENT...
THEY USED TO CALL WILLY HANK A GENIUS... AND I GUESS HE'S PROVED HE STILL IS!
WONDER WHY HE LEFT THAT NOTE-- ASSUMING HE LEFT IT!
SUDDENLY, BRUCE'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED BY THE SOUND OF THE LOUD SPEAKER CRACKLING, AND--
HAHA-HAHAHAHA!
I'D RECOGNIZE THAT LAUGH ANYWHERE! --HIM!
IT WILL END WHERE IT BEGAN!
HIS VOICE... LIKE A COLD WIND!
IS HIS CRYPTIC MESSAGE INTENDED FOR ME?

YES, ME AND WILLY HANK STAMPER! THE INCIDENT WILL BE IN ALL THE NEWSCASTS.
...WILLY HANK WILL HEAR--AND HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THE IMPLIED CHALLENGE!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, WE'LL MEET AGAIN--THE THREE OF US!
FUNNY...I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIS PRESENCE ALREADY!
DARKNESS...AND A RETURN TO THE PAST! THE YEARS HAVE NOT DEALT KINDLY WITH THIS ONCE ELEGANT NEIGHBORHOOD.
WHAT WAS ONCE THE LUXURIOUS SWOFFORD JEWELRY SALON IS NOW A DINGY STOREROOM FOR DRESS DUMMIES...
MANNEQUINS
--HUMANOID FORMS THAT CLUSTER LIKE MUTE SENTRIES, SILENTLY GREETING THE BATMAN...
QUIET...REAL QUIET IN HERE! AM I TOO EARLY--
--OR IS WILLY HANK WAITING FOR ME?
MEMORY'S PLAYING TRICKS ON ME!
I IMAGINE I CAN SMELL THE SMOKE FROM WILLY HANK'S PISTOL...
BEHIND THE BATMAN, PUSHED BY UNSEEN HANDS, A DUMMY TOPPLES--


--BUT HIS SUPERB INSTINCT, HONED BY UNENDING TRAINING, FLASHES A WARNING TO HIS BRAIN-- AND HE MOVES!
KA-RASH!


THIS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT-- NO WAY!
WILLY HANK... SHOW YOURSELF!
LEAVE, BATMAN! I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU!


KUK!
WILLY HANK... YOU DON'T KNOW HOW WRONG YOU ARE!
THE TINIEST OF NOISES... A REVOLVER BEING COCKED.

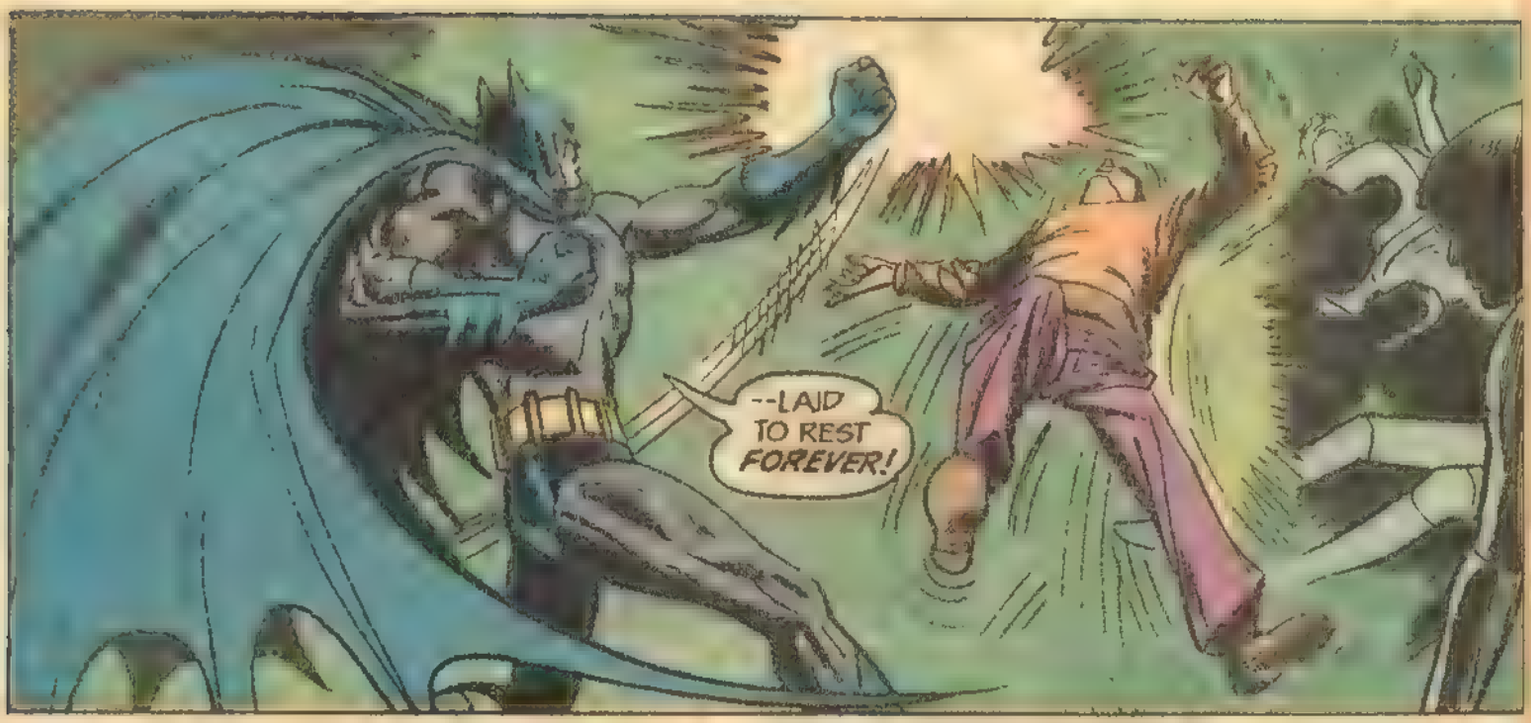

--ENOUGH TO WARN THE BATMAN--WHO SPRINGS SIDEWAYS, LEAVING THE BULLETS TO FIND OTHER TARGETS.
BLAM!
BLAM!

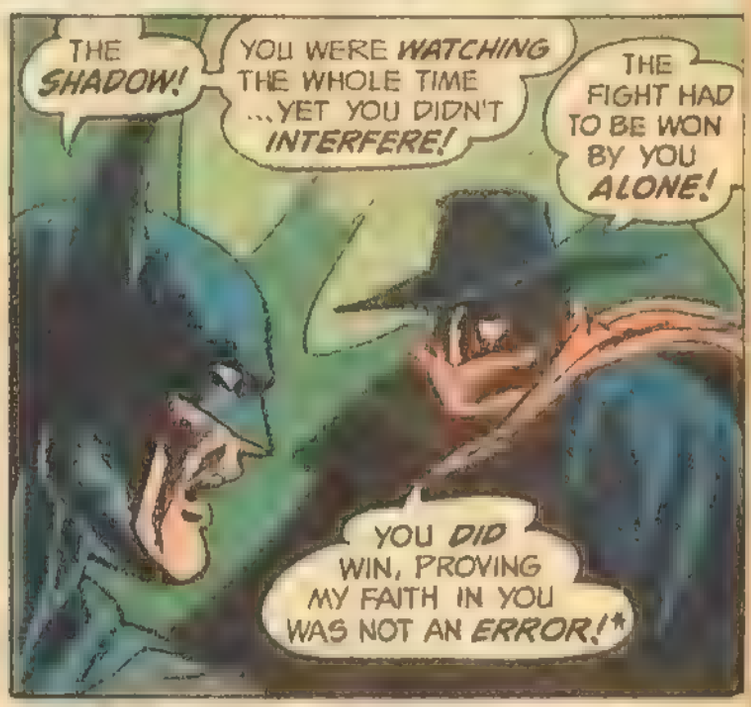
YOU CAN'T SHOOT ME! I HAVE A SHIELD...
YOU'RE HALLUCINATING, WILLY HANK! I DON'T USE WEAPONS--
15

-- I'M NOT ARMED...
...I AM--?!
WHERE IN BLAZES DID THIS AUTOMATIC COME FROM?
A GIFT? FROM...HIM?
WELL, I REJECT IT! I'VE NEVER NEEDED FIREARMS!
SURE- I ADMIRE HIM...
...I'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY HIM!
BUT I'M MY OWN MAN!
THEN, THE BATMAN LEAPS IN A FLAT, LITHE DIVE THROUGH THE DOORWAY AS WILLY HANK'S SLUGS WHISTLE OVER HIS HEAD...
BLAM-BAM!
...AND IT HAPPENS!-- THE MEMORY OF A CHILD'S TERROR SEIZES HIM IN A SMOTHERING GRIP-
BLAM!
BAM!
16

...AND ONCE AGAIN HE IS YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE BUFFETED BY SOUNDS--
BAM-
--HORRIBLE SOUNDS HE CAN'T SHUT OUT--
BLAM!
--SOUNDS THAT SEEM TO GO ON FOREVER...REACHING INTO THE FUTURE--
BLAM!
--AND WITH TERRIBLE CLARITY, HE AGAIN WITNESSES HIS PARENTS' MURDER...
SO THE BATMAN IS A PEDESTRIAN COWARD!--HOW DISAPPOINTING!
I SHALL GLADLY RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR FEAR--PERMANENTLY!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
THAT LAUGH--?!?
17

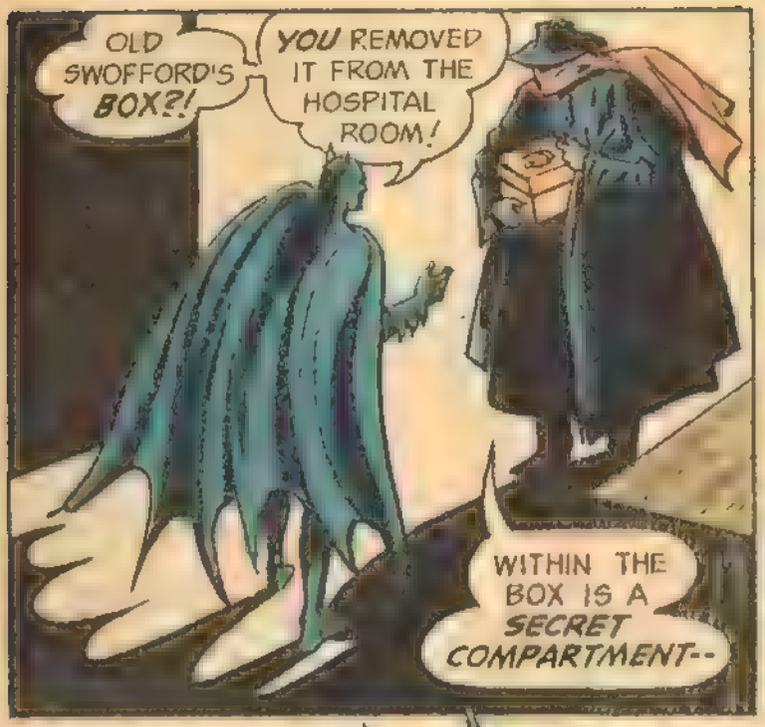
AND BRUCE WAYNE NO LONGER IS A FRIGHTENED BOY. HE IS-
--THE BATMAN ...THE AVENGER OF EVIL!...
AS I SAID EARLIER... YOU HIT HARD!
YOU MUST'VE DONE A LOT OF EXERCISING BEHIND BARS!
'UHNN, YOU WERE PRETENDING! YOU WERE NEVER REALLY AFRAID!
NOT ME!--AN INNOCENT CHILD WAS!
BUT HE'S GONE!
YEAH, HE'S GONE!
HE AND HIS TERROR ARE FINALLY LAID TO REST--
18

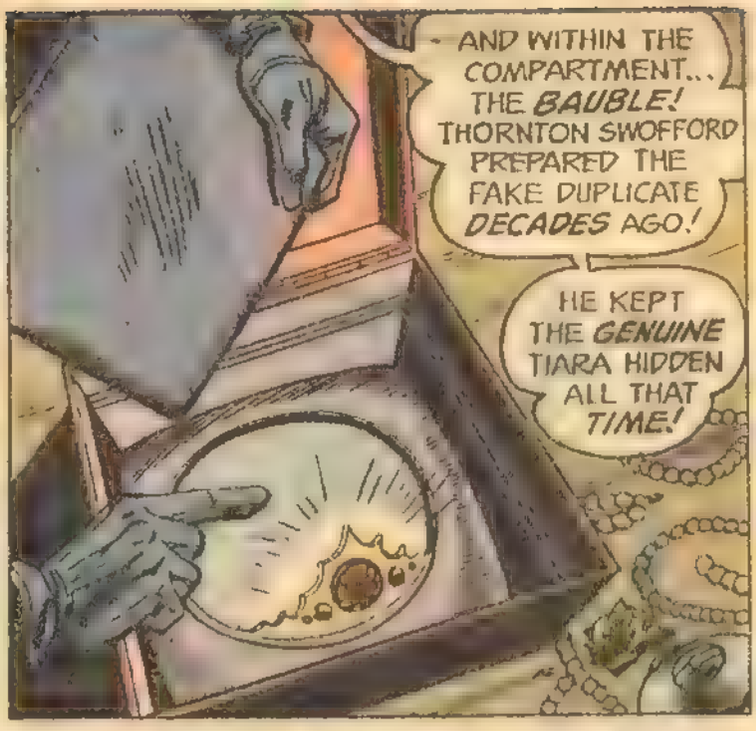


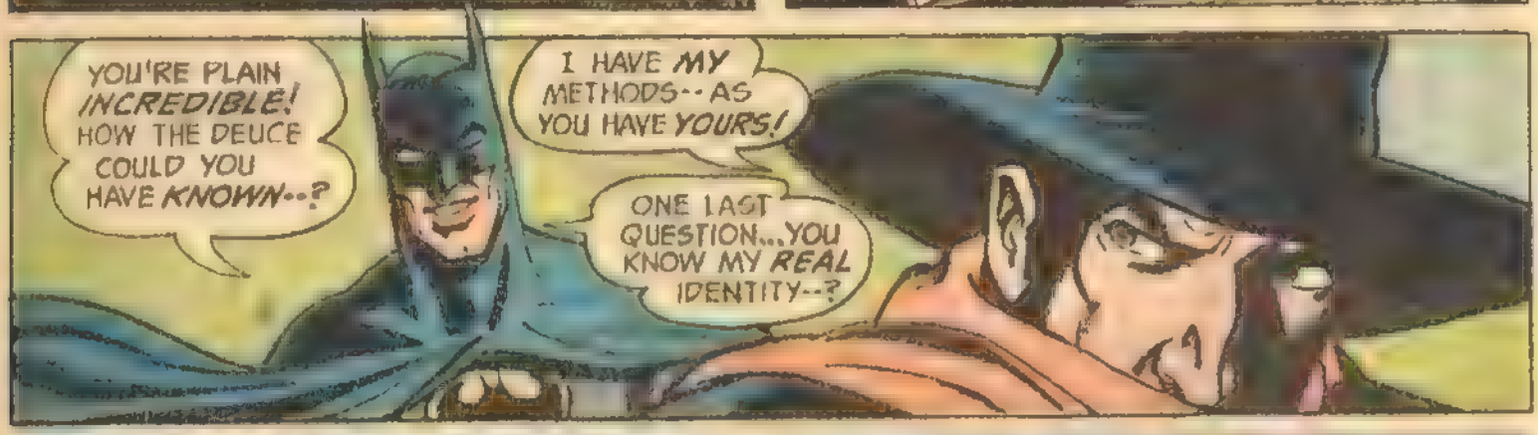

THE SHADOW!
YOU WERE WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME ...YET YOU DIDN'T INTERFERE!
THE FIGHT HAD TO BE WON BY YOU ALONE!
YOU DID WIN, PROVING MY FAITH IN YOU WAS NOT AN ERROR!*

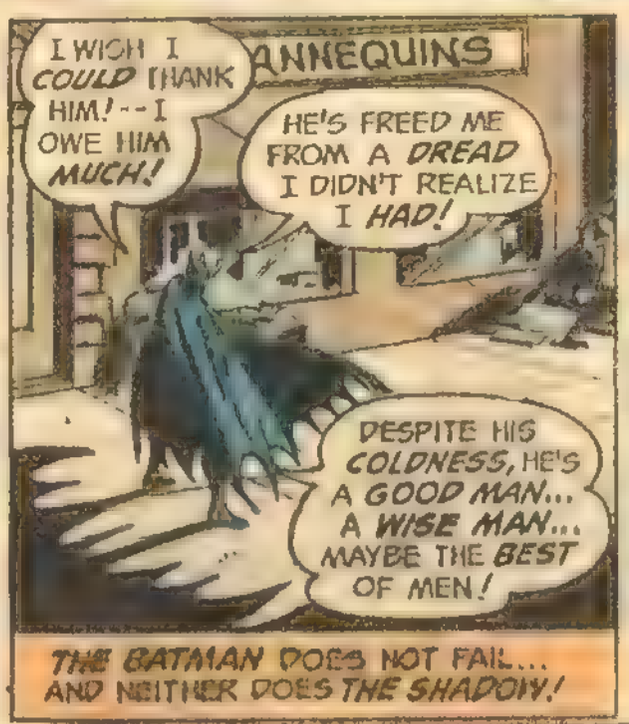
*NOTE: THEY MET IN BATMAN #253, IN "WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL--?"

IT WAS YOU WHO LEFT THE NOTE SAYING THE TIARA IS FAKE, RIGHT?
YOU SAW WILLY HANK STEAL IT AND-
--YOU ASSUME WRONG!
WILLY HANK STAMPER WAS NOT THE THIEF!
19




- AND WITHIN THE COMPARTMENT... THE BAUBLE! THORNTON SWOFFORD PREPARED THE FAKE DUPLICATE DECADES AGO!
HE KEPT THE GENUINE TIARA HIDDEN ALL THAT TIME!


YOU'RE PLAIN INCREDIBLE! HOW THE DEUCE COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN--?
I HAVE MY METHODS-- AS YOU HAVE YOURS!
ONE LAST QUESTION...YOU KNOW MY REAL IDENTITY--?


I WISH I COULD THANK HIM!-- I OWE HIM MUCH!
ANNEQUINS
HE'S FREED ME FROM A DREAD I DIDN'T REALIZE I HAD!
DESPITE HIS COLDNESS, HE'S A GOOD MAN... A WISE MAN... MAYBE THE BEST OF MEN!
THE BATMAN DOES NOT FAIL... AND NEITHER DOES THE SHADOW!

WE DEDICATE THIS STORY TO THE MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND BILL FINGER

THE END.

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN OCTOBER

SO, ROBIN, YOU CAN SEE FROM MY LATEST CASE THAT I WAS INSPIRED BY THE SHADOW WHEN I BEGAN MY CAREER AS A CRIME-FIGHTER!
ONLY YOU PREFERRED TO DO THINGS YOUR OWN WAY INSTEAD OF COPYING HIM! I CAN THINK OF SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO COPIED YOU, THOUGH... FROM YOUR BOOTS RIGHT UP TO YOUR POINTY EARS. AND THAT INCLUDES FOUR CROOKS... IN THIS STORY...
BAT MAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
THIS IS THE STORY OF ONE OF THE MOST BRAZEN OF ALL RACKETS - FOR, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIEVES DECIDE TO USE THE FAMED BATMAN CAREER FOR INFAMY WHEN THEY CHOOSE A MILLIONAIRE FOR THEIR VICTIM! THUS, THEY CREATE THAT BIZARRE, BOGUS BAND KNOWN AS THE BROTHERHOOD OF BATMEN IN THE STARTLING CASE CALLED --
THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE!
BATMAN! BUT... BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...??
YOU WILL, ONCE WE CLEAN UP THIS BROTHERHOOD OF BATMEN!
ART: DICK SPRANG
'55 by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS INC.

THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, NED JUDSON, WEALTHY YACHTSMAN, STANDS BEFORE A CRUMBLING CASTLE ONCE BUILT BY AN ECCENTRIC MILLIONAIRE...
HMM! CERTAINLY IS A WEIRD PLACE FOR AN APPOINTMENT! WONDER WHO MY ANONYMOUS CALLER WAS? I'LL SOON FIND OUT...
BATMAN!
ONCE I WAS BATMAN--
--I WAS THE ORIGINAL BATMAN UNTIL I RETIRED BECAUSE OF INJURIES! NOW WATCH! YOU ARE ABOUT TO BEHOLD ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST-KEPT SECRETS!
BONG
THREE BATMEN!
BATMAN IS REALLY FOUR BATMEN! ONE MAN COULDN'T SURVIVE SO MANY DANGERS AND GET ABOUT TO SO MANY PLACES -- SO WE PRETEND THERE IS ONLY ONE BATMAN-- TO AWE THE UNDERWORLD!
MANY GREAT MEN WERE ONCE BATMEN! JOLDONI, THE FAMED CIRCUS ACROBAT, WAS A BATMAN UNTIL HE DIED IN A FALL!
BAXTER, THE HOLLYWOOD STUNT MAN, WAS A BATMAN...
BAXTER? I READ THAT HE DIED LAST WEEK, WHEN A SPOTLIGHT CRASHED DOWN FROM A CATWALK!
YES-- THAT'S WHY YOU WERE ASKED HERE! WE WANT YOU TO TAKE HIS PLACE! WE WANT YOU TO BECOME A BATMAN!
ME?!?
2

AWED BY THIS GREAT HONOR, JUDSON TAKES HIS PLACE AT THE ROUND TABLE AND RECITES THE OATH OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF BATMEN!

...AND I SWEAR TO UPHOLD LAW AND ORDER FOREVER!

NED JUDSON, YOU NOW TAKE YOUR PLACE AS BATMAN NUMBER FOUR OF THE BROTHERHOOD!

I HAVE A QUESTION, SIR! ARE THERE FOUR ROBINS ALSO?

ER...NO! THERE IS ONLY ONE ROBIN -- AND HE WORKS ONLY WITH BATMAN NUMBER ONE! AND ONLY BATMAN NUMBER ONE ANSWERS THE BAT-SIGNAL FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

I UNDERSTAND! HE'S EARNED THAT PRIVILEGE BECAUSE OF HIS SKILL! THAT'S WHY HE'S BATMAN NUMBER ONE!

EXACTLY! PERHAPS SOME DAY YOU MAY RISE TO HIS STATUS! MEANWHILE, YOU WILL BE SUMMONED TO ASSIGNMENTS BY THIS SPECIAL WALKIE-TALKIE BOX! TOMORROW NIGHT, YOU WILL REPORT HERE FOR TRAINING!

WHEN JUDSON LEAVES, HE IS UNAWARE OF THE MOCKING, CRIMINAL FACES UNDER THE FAKE "BATMEN" COWLS!

BOSS, IT WORKED! THE CHUMP REALLY FELL FOR THIS PHONEY SETUP!

NATURALLY! JUDSON'S A REAL BATMAN FAN! THAT'S WHY I PICKED HIM! THE POOR FISH HAS TAKEN THE BAIT-- AND WE'RE READY TO PULL HIM IN!

NEXT NIGHT, THE UNSUSPECTING JUDSON REPORTS FOR HIS "TRAINING" PROGRAM...

YOU'RE LEARNING FAST, JUDSON! THAT'S HOW YOU'LL SWING ON YOUR SILKEN ROPE FROM ONE ROOFTOP TO ANOTHER!

...THAT POOR CHUMP! HE'S REALLY CONVINCED, BOSS!

NICE GOING, JUDSON! YOU'VE GOT THAT JUDO TOSS DOWN PAT!

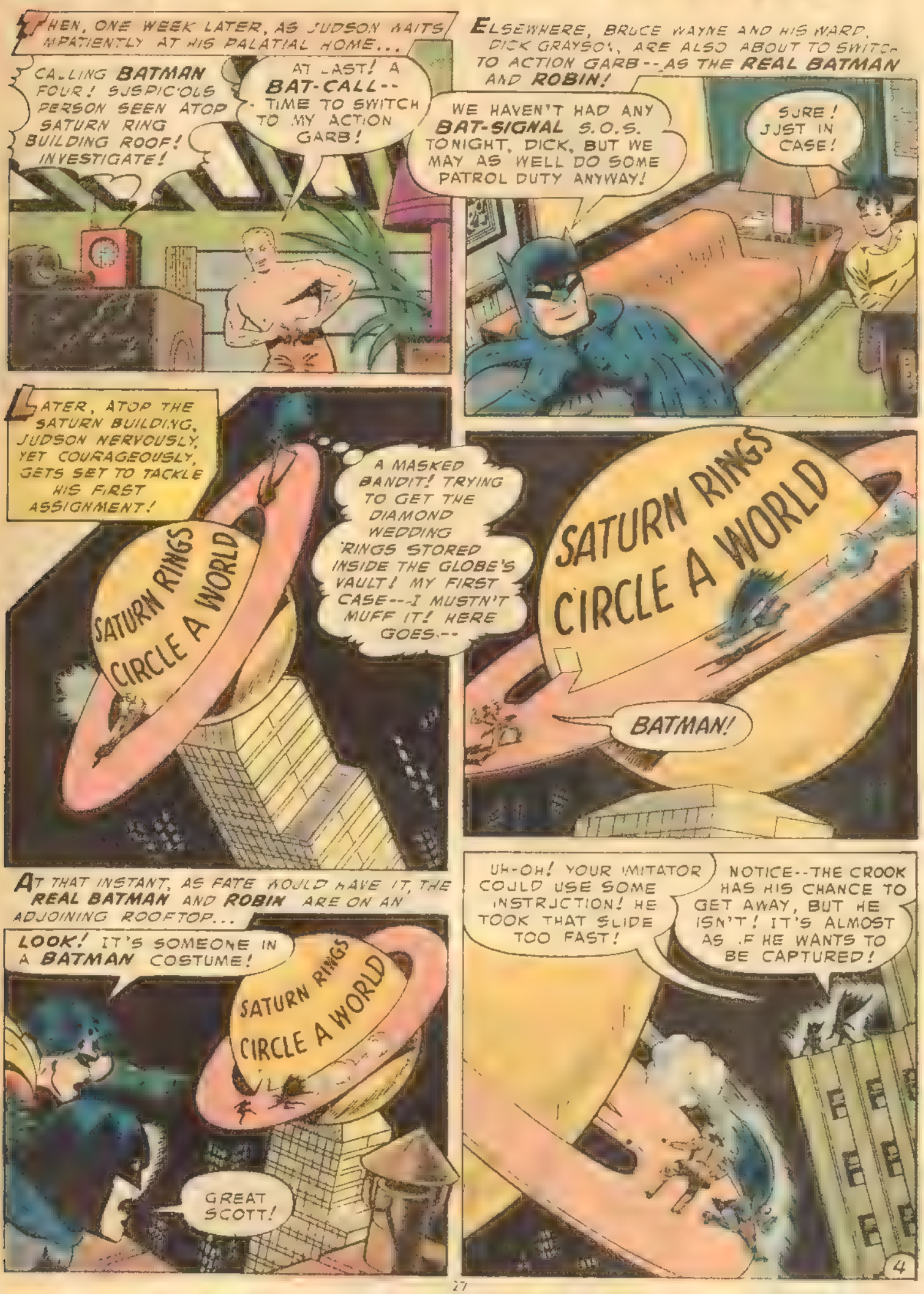
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A NATURAL ATHLETE, SO THIS IS EASY FOR ME!

THIS STUDY OF BALLISTICS IS FASCINATING!

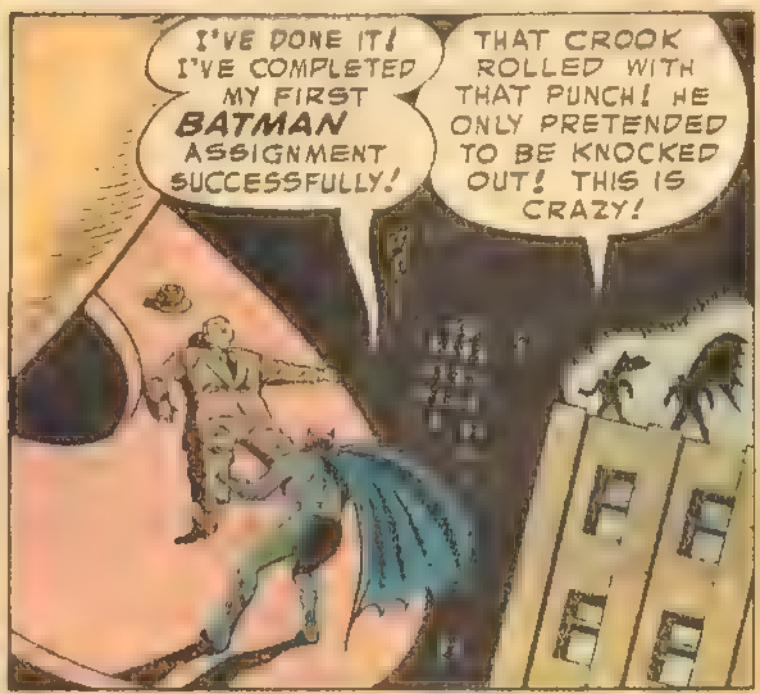
YEP--I PLANNED THIS SWINDLE WELL! I EVEN GOT AN EX-ATHLETIC INSTRUCTOR AND AN EX-SCIENCE WORKER IN MY MOB!

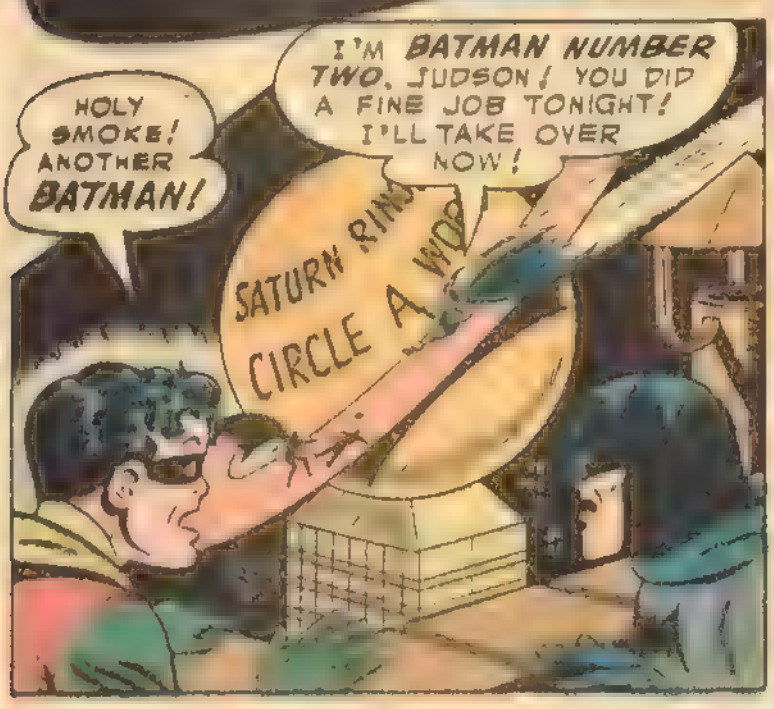
3

THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

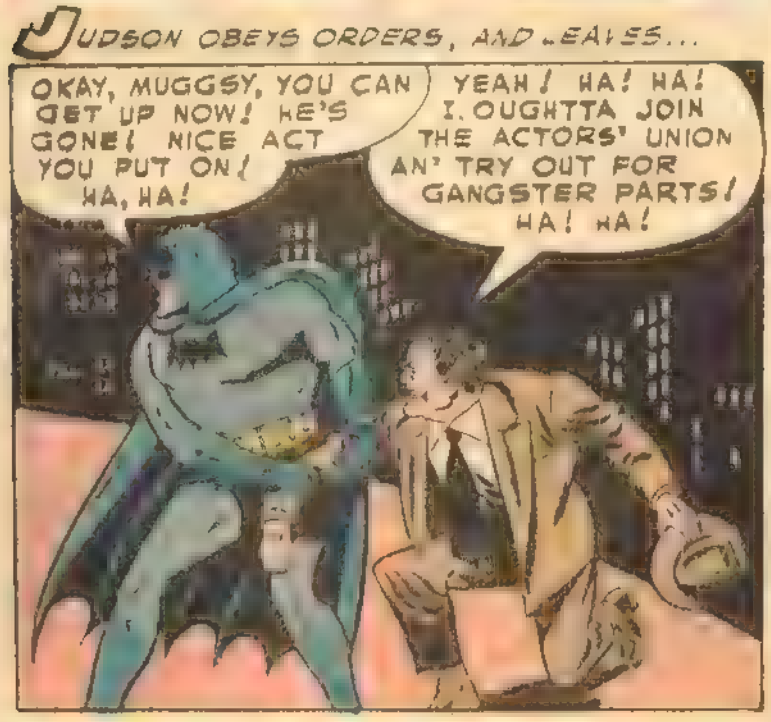

THEN, ONE WEEK LATER, AS JUDSON WAITS IMPATIENTLY AT HIS PALATIAL HOME...
CALLING BATMAN FOUR! SUSPICIOUS PERSON SEEN ATOP SATURN RING BUILDING ROOF! INVESTIGATE!
AT LAST! A BAT-CALL-- TIME TO SWITCH TO MY ACTION GARB!
ELSEWHERE, BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, ARE ALSO ABOUT TO SWITCH TO ACTION GARB--AS THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY BAT-SIGNAL S.O.S. TONIGHT, DICK, BUT WE MAY AS WELL DO SOME PATROL DUTY ANYWAY!
SURE! JUST IN CASE!
LATER, ATOP THE SATURN BUILDING, JUDSON NERVOUSLY, YET COURAGEOUSLY, GETS SET TO TACKLE HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT!
SATURN RINGS CIRCLE A WORLD
A MASKED BANDIT! TRYING TO GET THE DIAMOND WEDDING RINGS STORED INSIDE THE GLOBE'S VAULT! MY FIRST CASE--I MUSTN'T MUFF IT! HERE GOES--
SATURN RINGS CIRCLE A WORLD
BATMAN!
AT THAT INSTANT, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE ON AN ADJOINING ROOFTOP...
LOOK! IT'S SOMEONE IN A BATMAN COSTUME!
SATURN RINGS CIRCLE A WORLD
GREAT SCOTT!
UH-OH! YOUR IMITATOR COULD USE SOME INSTRUCTION! HE TOOK THAT SLIDE TOO FAST!
NOTICE--THE CROOK HAS HIS CHANCE TO GET AWAY, BUT HE ISN'T! IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WANTS TO BE CAPTURED!
4

AH! I'VE GOT HIM NOW! HE'S FOLDING LIKE AN ACCORDION!


I'VE DONE IT! I'VE COMPLETED MY FIRST BATMAN ASSIGNMENT SUCCESSFULLY!
THAT CROOK ROLLED WITH THAT PUNCH! HE ONLY PRETENDED TO BE KNOCKED OUT! THIS IS CRAZY!


HOLY SMOKE! ANOTHER BATMAN!
I'M BATMAN NUMBER TWO, JUDSON! YOU DID A FINE JOB TONIGHT! I'LL TAKE OVER NOW!
SATURN RING
CIRCLE A WO

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO DROP THIS BANDIT OFF AT POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS!
I'LL DO THAT! YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR REPORT TO THE BROTHERHOOD! WE WORK IN RELAYS LIKE THIS TO SPEED THINGS UP!


JUDSON OBEYS ORDERS, AND LEAVES...
OKAY, MUGGSY, YOU CAN GET UP NOW! HE'S GONE! NICE ACT YOU PUT ON! HA, HA!
YEAH! HA! HA! I OUGHTTA JOIN THE ACTORS' UNION AN' TRY OUT FOR GANGSTER PARTS! HA! HA!

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, BATMAN?
IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME SO FAR, ROBIN-- BUT IF WE TRAIL THESE MEN, WE MAY COME UP WITH SOME ANSWERS!
5

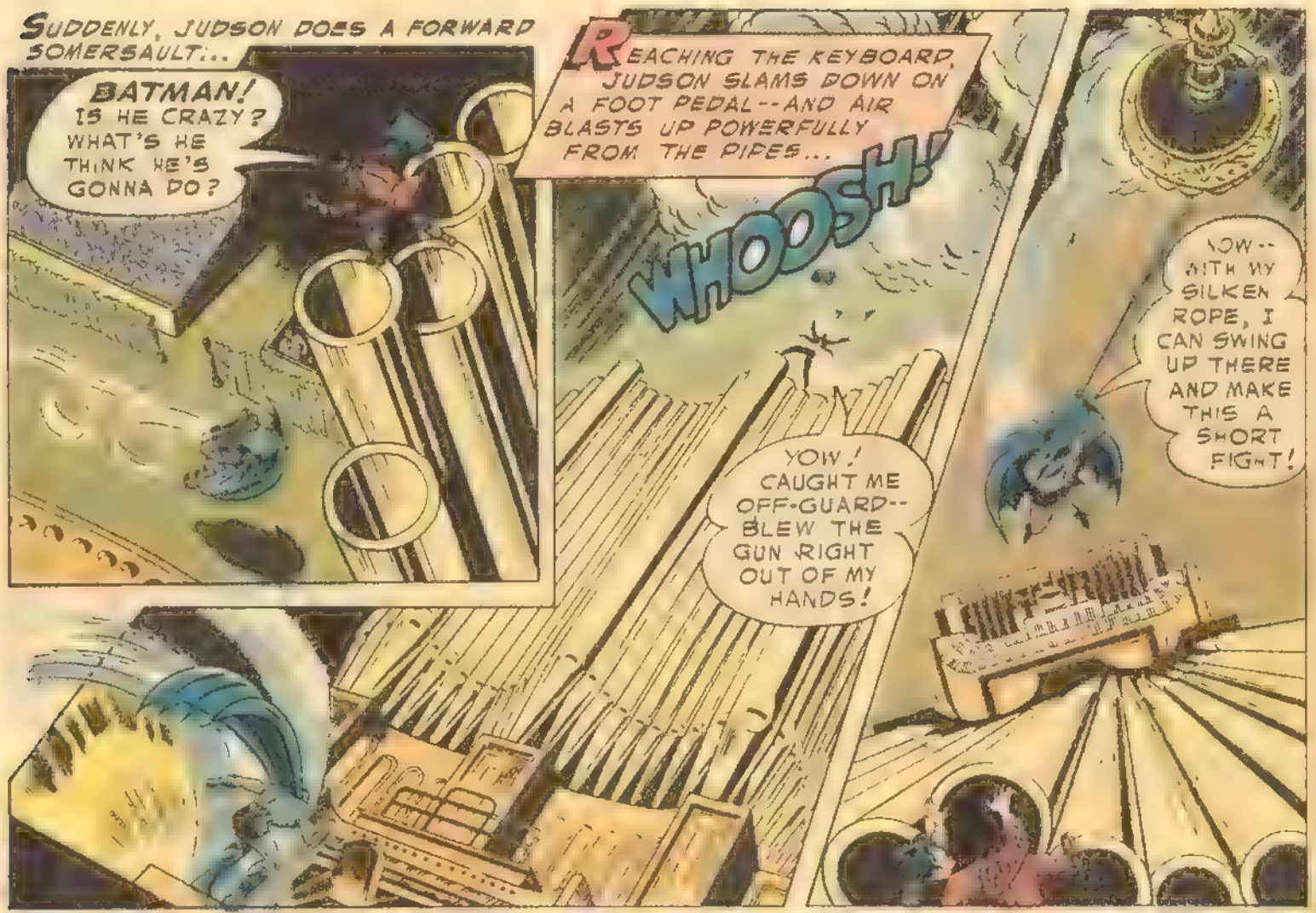
THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

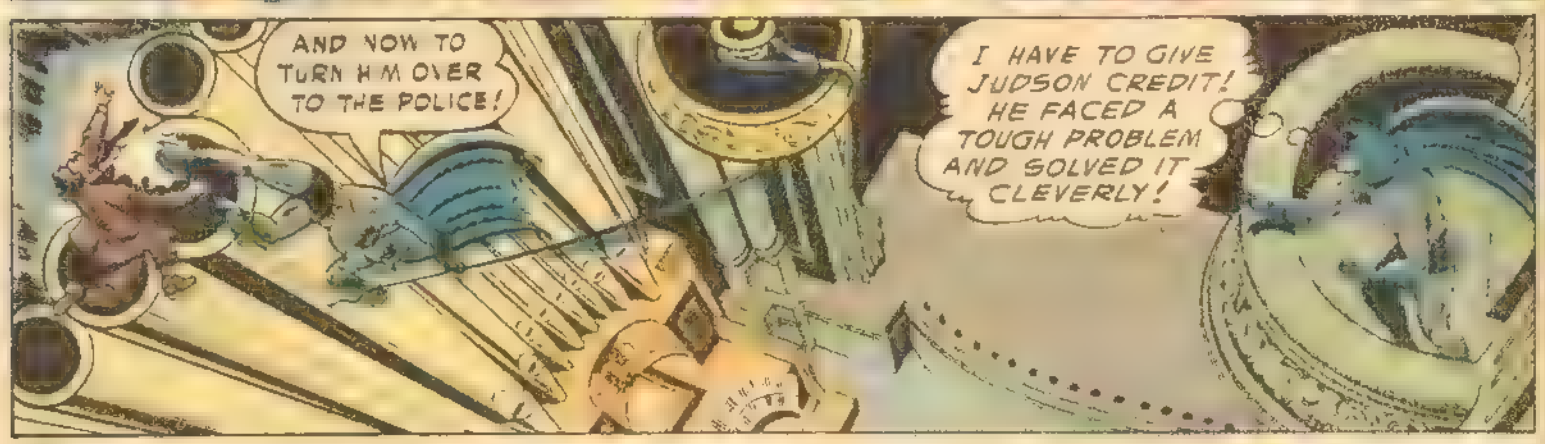
AND SO IT IS THAT BATMAN TRAILS A BATMAN...
STAY OUT OF SIGHT, MUGGSY! WE DON'T WANT JUDSON TO SEE YOU OR HE'D GET WISE TO OUR SETUP!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL STAY IN ANOTHER ROOM TILL THE CHUMP LEAVES!
SOON AFTER, WITH CATLIKE AGILITY, BATMAN AND ROBIN SCALE THE CASTLE WALLS...
QUIET, ROBIN! I HEAR VOICES FROM INSIDE!
JUDSON, YOU'VE PROVED YOURSELF WORTHY OF THE COSTUME YOU WEAR! YOU ARE NOW READY TO ASSUME FULL-TIME DUTIES!
THEREFORE, YOU WILL RETURN TOMORROW WITH $20,000 IN CASH! IT'S TO COVER THE EXPENSE OF MAKING THE MOST COMPLICATED OF ALL CARS -- THE BATMOBILE!
AFTER JUDSON LEAVES...
UNFORTUNATELY, BAXTER'S BATCAVE HAD A CAVE-IN AND BURIED ALL HIS VEHICLES, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO BUY YOUR OWN BATMOBILE!
MY OWN BATMOBILE! OF COURSE! I'LL BRING THE MONEY TOMORROW!
HA! HA! JUDSON'S ALWAYS WISHED HE COULD BE A BATMAN -- AND HE'S GOING TO GET HIS WISH! BUT HE'LL PAY FOR IT -- PAY -- AND PAY -- AND PAY!
GEE, BOSS -- ONLY YOU COULD THINK UP THE TRICKIEST RACKET OF THEM ALL -- THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE!
6

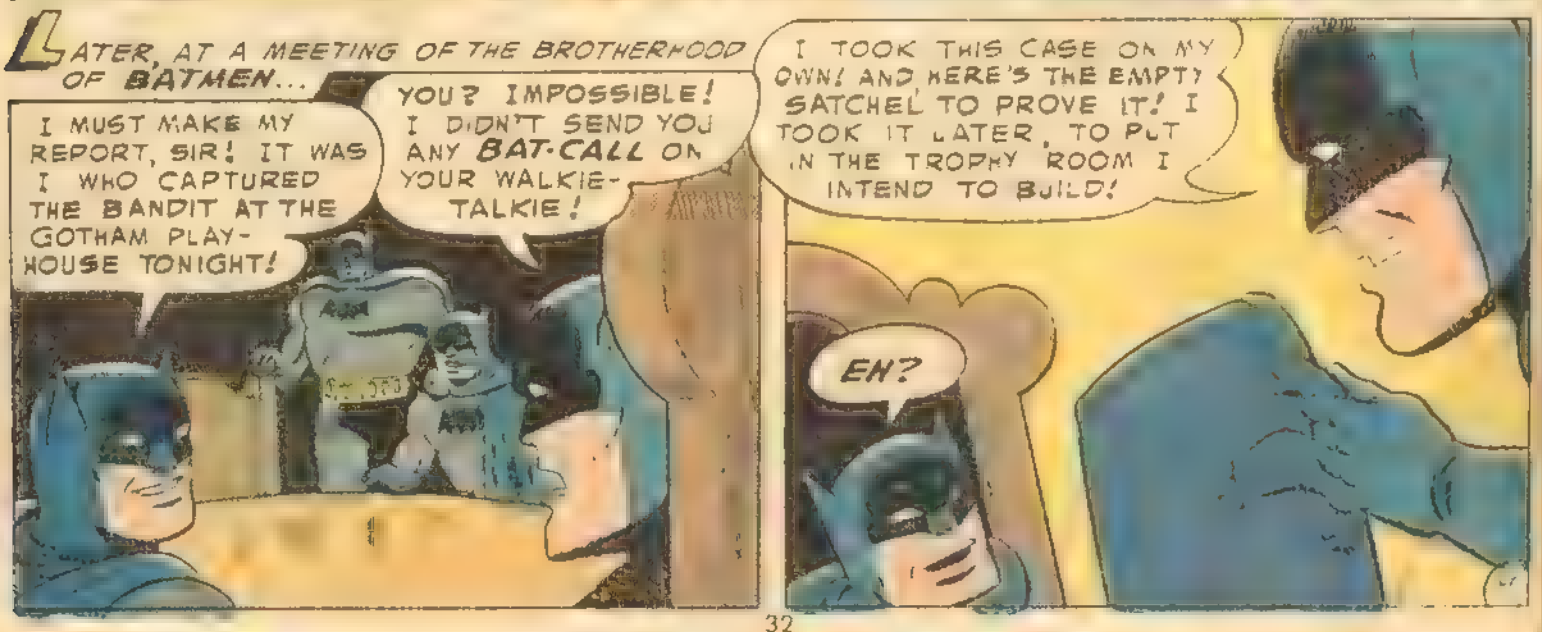
FIRST, $20,000 FOR A "BATMOBILE"-- NEXT, $100,000 FOR A "BATPLANE" THEN, $200,000 FOR A "BATMARINE"-- AND MORE THOUSANDS FOR A "BATCAVE"!
YEAH-- AN' ALL HE'LL GET FOR HIS DOUGH IS PROMISES! WE'LL STALL HIM BY SAYING IT TAKES TIME AN' CARE TO MAKE SUCH SPECIAL EQUIPMENT!
MEANWHILE, WE'LL KEEP JUDSON BUSY WITH "TRAINING" AND MOVE HIM UP GRADUALLY FROM BATMAN NUMBER FOUR TO NUMBER TWO!
THE CHUMP WILL BE SO DAZED BY HIS "SUCCESS" AND GLORY OF BEING A BATMAN, HE'LL BE BLIND TO ANY FLAW IN OUR SWINDLE!
NO, ROBIN-- WE CAN'T!
C'MON, BATMAN-- LET'S GO DOWN AND BREAK UP THIS RACKET!
JUDSON IS SINCERE IN FIGHTING CRIME! EXPOSING THE RACKET WOULD MAKE JUDSON A LAUGHING STOCK! IT WOULD BE A PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW HE'D NEVER LIVE DOWN!
SOMETIME AFTER, JUDSON HAS TWO UNEXPECTED CALLERS...
I WANT TO RETIRE SOON, AND I WANT TO GROOM YOU SECRETLY SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE MY PLACE IN THE BROTHERHOOD!
ME-- BATMAN NUMBER ONE? GOSH!
OH! BATMAN NUMBER ONE-- AND ROBIN!
ER... YES! JUDSON, I WANT YOU TO KEEP OUR VISIT A SECRET FROM THE REST OF THE BROTHERHOOD!
BUT WE CAN'T LET THEM SWINDLE JUDSON!
I HAVE A PLAN, ROBIN! I'M GOING TO VISIT JUDSON-- AND PRETEND I'M BATMAN NUMBER ONE OF THE BROTHERHOOD!
7

THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

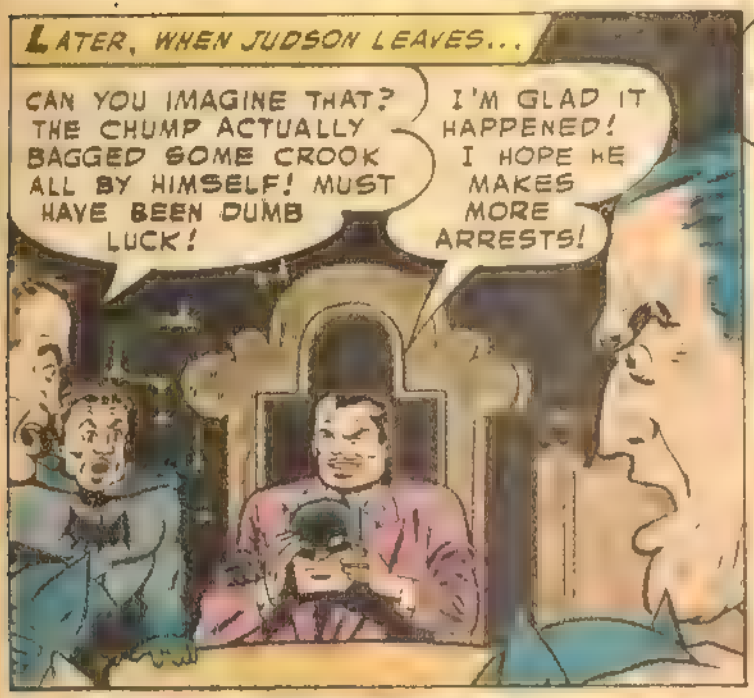
AND SOON, BLINDFOLDED JUDSON IS TAKEN TO THE WORLD-FAMED UNDERGROUND SANCTUM FOR HIS TRAINING...
THE BATCAVE! SOMEDAY I'LL HAVE A BATCAVE, TOO, WITH MY OWN TROPHIES!
ER... LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT NOW! WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU IN CONDITION FIRST!
NOW, AND IN DAYS TO FOLLOW, JUDSON IS PUT THROUGH RIGID TESTS CALLING FOR-- MUSCULAR CONTROL...
:ULP: THE INSTRUCTOR AT THE BROTHERHOOD GYM NEVER PUT ME THROUGH ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
YOU WANT TO QUALIFY AS BATMAN NUMBER ONE, DON'T YOU? YOU'VE GOT TO EARN THAT RIGHT!
CRIME LAB STUDY--
ONE DOLLAR
HERE IS AN ENLARGEMENT OF A BILL SUPPOSEDLY ISSUED THIS YEAR! IT HAS PERFECT DETAIL-- EVEN HAS SILK THREADS -- YET, HOW DO I KNOW IT'S COUNTERFEIT?
YOU CAN'T TRICK ME! SILK HAIRS ARE NOT USED ANYMORE! THEY NOW USE NYLON HAIRS IN ALL NEW BILLS!
POWERS OF OBSERVATION...
HERE IS AN ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH OF A CRIMINAL IN A LINEUP! WHAT IMPORTANT FACT CAN YOU DEDUCE FROM IT?
HMM! THE MAN IS LEFT-HANDED -- BECAUSE HIS BELT BUCKLE FACES THAT WAY! A RIGHT-HANDED MAN HAS A BELT BUCKLE TURNED TO THE RIGHT!
THEN ONE NIGHT SOON AFTER, AS JUDSON RIDES IN THE SLEEK BATMOBILE...
CALLING BATMAN! BANDIT TRYING TO ESCAPE WITH GOTHAM PLAYHOUSE BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS!
JUDSON, AFTER ALL THAT STUDY, I THINK IT'S TIME YOU HAD A TEST! I WANT TO SEE YOU CAPTURE THAT BANDIT!
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR-- A CHANCE TO PROVE I CAN TAKE YOUR PLACE AS BATMAN NUMBER ONE!
MOMENTS LATER, FROM HIDING, THE REAL BATMAN WATCHES HIS PUPIL AT WORK...
ANYBODY WHO TRIES TO STOP ME IS GONNA GET HURT!
HOW WOULD BATMAN NUMBER ONE HANDLE THIS SITUATION WITHOUT ENDANGERING LIVES?
8

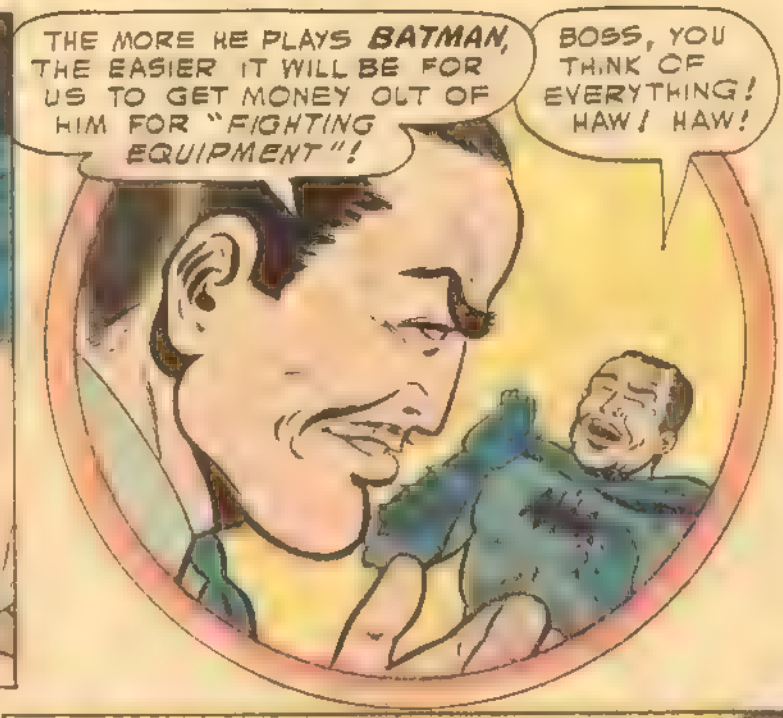

SUDDENLY, JUDSON DOES A FORWARD SOMERSAULT...
BATMAN! IS HE CRAZY? WHAT'S HE THINK HE'S GONNA DO?
REACHING THE KEYBOARD, JUDSON SLAMS DOWN ON A FOOT PEDAL--AND AIR BLASTS UP POWERFULLY FROM THE PIPES...
WHOOSH!
YOW! CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD-- BLEW THE GUN RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS!
NOW-- WITH MY SILKEN ROPE, I CAN SWING UP THERE AND MAKE THIS A SHORT FIGHT!

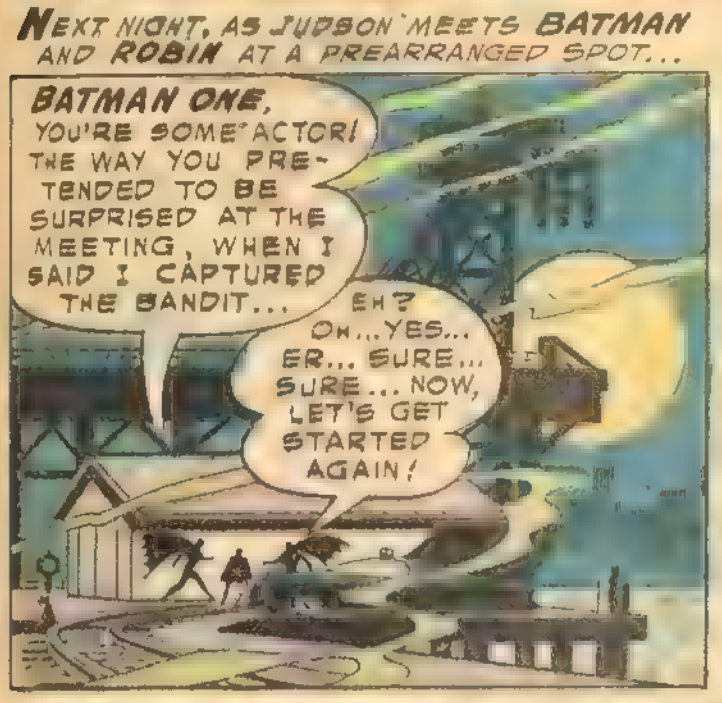

AND NOW TO TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE!
I HAVE TO GIVE JUDSON CREDIT! HE FACED A TOUGH PROBLEM AND SOLVED IT CLEVERLY!

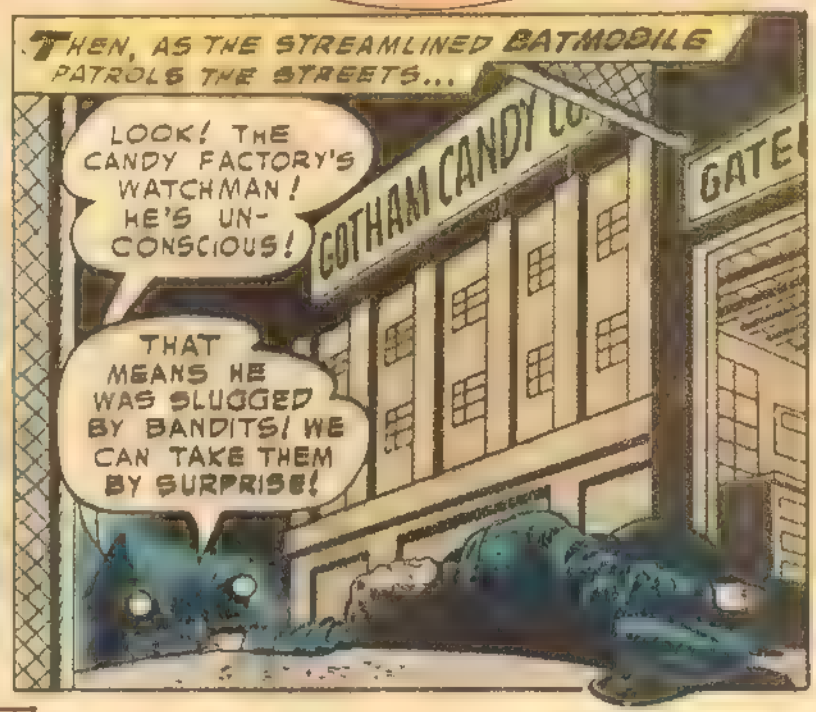

LATER, AT A MEETING OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF BATMEN...
I MUST MAKE MY REPORT, SIR! IT WAS I WHO CAPTURED THE BANDIT AT THE GOTHAM PLAY-HOUSE TONIGHT!
YOU? IMPOSSIBLE! I DIDN'T SEND YOU ANY BAT-CALL ON YOUR WALKIE-TALKIE!
I TOOK THIS CASE ON MY OWN! AND HERE'S THE EMPTY SATCHEL TO PROVE IT! I TOOK IT LATER, TO PUT IN THE TROPHY ROOM I INTEND TO BUILD!
EH?

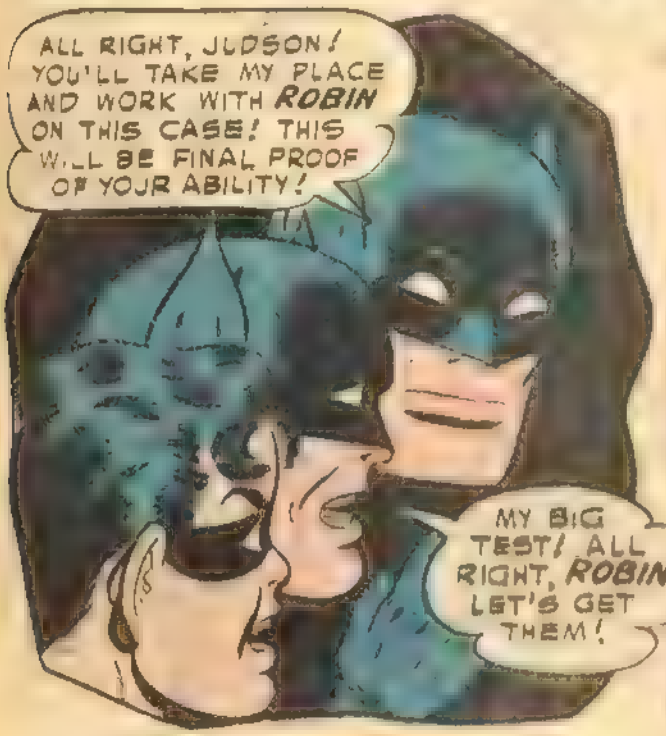
THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

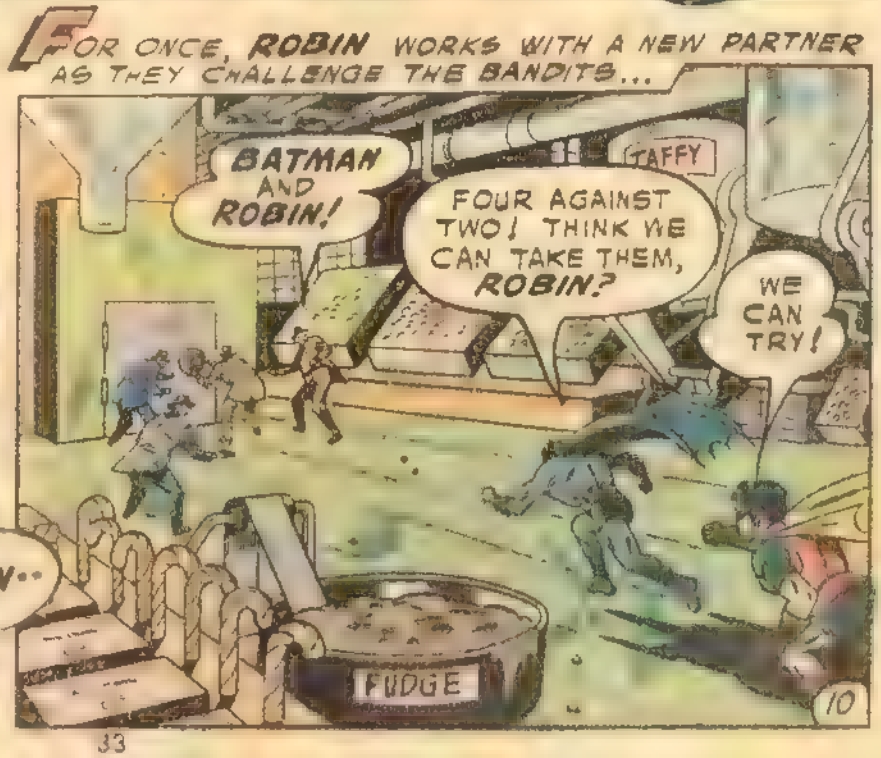

LATER, WHEN JUDSON LEAVES...
CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT? THE CHUMP ACTUALLY BAGGED SOME CROOK ALL BY HIMSELF! MUST HAVE BEEN DUMB LUCK!
I'M GLAD IT HAPPENED! I HOPE HE MAKES MORE ARRESTS!


THE MORE HE PLAYS BATMAN, THE EASIER IT WILL BE FOR US TO GET MONEY OUT OF HIM FOR "FIGHTING EQUIPMENT"!
BOSS, YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING! HAW! HAW!


NEXT NIGHT, AS JUDSON MEETS BATMAN AND ROBIN AT A PREARRANGED SPOT...
BATMAN ONE, YOU'RE SOME ACTOR! THE WAY YOU PRETENDED TO BE SURPRISED AT THE MEETING, WHEN I SAID I CAPTURED THE BANDIT...
EH? OH...YES... ER... SURE... SURE... NOW, LET'S GET STARTED AGAIN!


THEN, AS THE STREAMLINED BATMOBILE PATROLS THE STREETS...
LOOK! THE CANDY FACTORY'S WATCHMAN! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
GOTHAM CANDY CO
GATE
THAT MEANS HE WAS SLUGGED BY BANDITS! WE CAN TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE!


ALL RIGHT, JUDSON! YOU'LL TAKE MY PLACE AND WORK WITH ROBIN ON THIS CASE! THIS WILL BE FINAL PROOF OF YOUR ABILITY!
MY BIG TEST! ALL RIGHT, ROBIN... LET'S GET THEM!


FOR ONCE, ROBIN WORKS WITH A NEW PARTNER AS THEY CHALLENGE THE BANDITS...
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
TAFFY
FOUR AGAINST TWO! THINK WE CAN TAKE THEM, ROBIN?
WE CAN TRY!
FUDGE
10

THEN-- THE UNFORESEEN HAPPENS! ROBIN SLIPS ON SOME FALLEN CANDY SOURBALLS..

TAFFY

GRAB THAT KID! HOLD HIM AND BATMAN WON'T RISK TACKLING US!

MEANWHILE, UNOBSERVED, THE REAL BATMAN WATCHES THE SCENE, ANXIOUSLY, BUT CONFIDENT...

FOUR AGAINST ONE NOW! I COULD HELP JUDSON NOW, BUT THIS IS HIS BIG TEST! AND ROBIN'S IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER! I WON'T INTERFERE UNLESS JUDSON FAILS!

BUT, BATMAN'S TRAINING OF JUDSON HAS BEEN SO THOROUGH THAT JUDSON REACTS NOW WITH ASTONISHING INSTINCT...

FIRST--GET THEM OFF BALANCE WITH THIS GIANT CANDY CANE!

AND NOW, THIS STICKY TAFFY WILL KEEP THEM TANGLED NICE AND PROPER FOR THE POLICE!

TAFFY

THAT DOES IT! JUDSON'S READY FOR THE BIG WINDUP!

THAT NIGHT, AT THE MEETING OF THE BATMAN BROTHERHOOD...

BATMAN ONE, NOW I'LL DO AS YOU ASKED ME TO-- I'LL TELL THEM HOW I WORKED WITH ROBIN AND HOW YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOUR PLACE!

HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

BOSS, THERE'S SOMETHIN' PHONEY GOIN' ON! THIS CHUMP SPILLED THAT HE WAS WORKING WITH ROBIN!

WHA-AAT? LET'S GET H M TO TALK, AND FAST!

THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

SUDDENLY, ANOTHER BATMAN CRASHES THE MEETING!
BATMAN HIMSELF!
AND DON'T FORGET L'IL OL' ME!
BATMAN-- I DON'T UNDER-STAND--??
THEY'RE FAKES, JUDSON-- AND THEY TRIED TO SWINDLE YOU! NOW THAT YOU KNOW, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
DO? I'M GOING TO GIVE THIS PHONEY THE BOXING LESSON HIS TRAINING DIDN'T GIVE ME!
GOOD IDEA, JUDSON! AND NOW IT'S GOOD NIGHT TO THESE BAD KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE!
BATMAN NUMBER ONE--TWO--THREE-- YOU'RE OUT!
LATER, WHEN THE BOGUS BATMAN GANG IS TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE...
NOW I GUESS EVERY-ONE WILL LAUGH AT ME WHEN THE NEWS GETS OUT!
NO THEY WON'T! YOU'LL GET CREDIT FOR BREAKING UP THAT RACKET!
AND REMEMBER, YOU'VE PROVED YOURSELF A RELIABLE STAND-IN FOR BATMAN!
AND REMEMBER THIS-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR A COSTUME TO FIGHT FOR LAW AND ORDER! YOU CAN DO IT BY BEING A GOOD CITIZEN!
I WON'T FORGET-- AND I WON'T FORGET THAT AT LEAST MY GREATEST WISH CAME TRUE--FOR AWHILE, I WAS A BATMAN!
THE END.
12

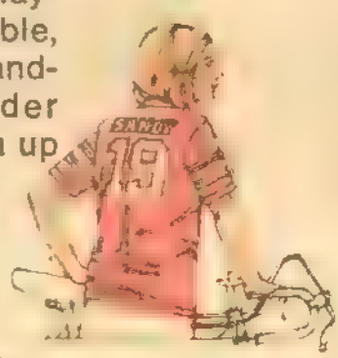
Wear your own FOOTBALL JERSEY like THE PROS

JERSEY LIKE

from

Baby Ruth Butterfinger

Your jersey with *your* name and *your* number, made specially for you by Champion, the people who make the jerseys for the professional football teams! They're made of tough, long-wearing nylon mesh like the pro football players wear. They're washable, shrink-resistant, cool for sandlot game or school. Order yours now. Better yet, team up with your pals and all order the same color jerseys!



Youth Size $6.00 value — **Only $3.95***

Adult Size $7.00 value — **Only $4.95***

*** and the name "Curtiss" from 2 Baby Ruth, Butterfinger or any Curtiss candy packages**

CLIP THIS COUPON NOW!

HOW TO ORDER

If you order more than one jersey and descriptions are different, list each separately. Print clearly. If you need more space, use a separate piece of plain paper. State QUANTITY—how many. COLOR—write A, B, C, or D, for combination you want. SIZE—write YM for Youth Medium, YL for Youth Large, AM for Adult Medium, AL for Adult Large. NUMBER—write any number from 0 to 99. NAME—print name to appear on back of jersey. One name only, no more than 10 letters. PRICE — state amount you are enclosing—$4.95 and 2 Curtiss names for each Adult size, $3.95 and 2 Curtiss names for each Youth size. Enclose check or money order.

Please send me

Quantity of Jersey	Color	Size	Number on Jersey	Name on Jersey	Price & Curtiss names

Name _____

Address _____

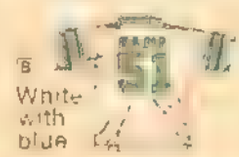
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Allow 4 weeks for delivery. Offer valid in Continental U.S. only. Void where prohibited, regulated or taxed. **Offer expires Dec. 31, 1974.**

Mail to:

Curtiss Jersey Offer
P. O. Box 591A
Medina, Ohio 44256

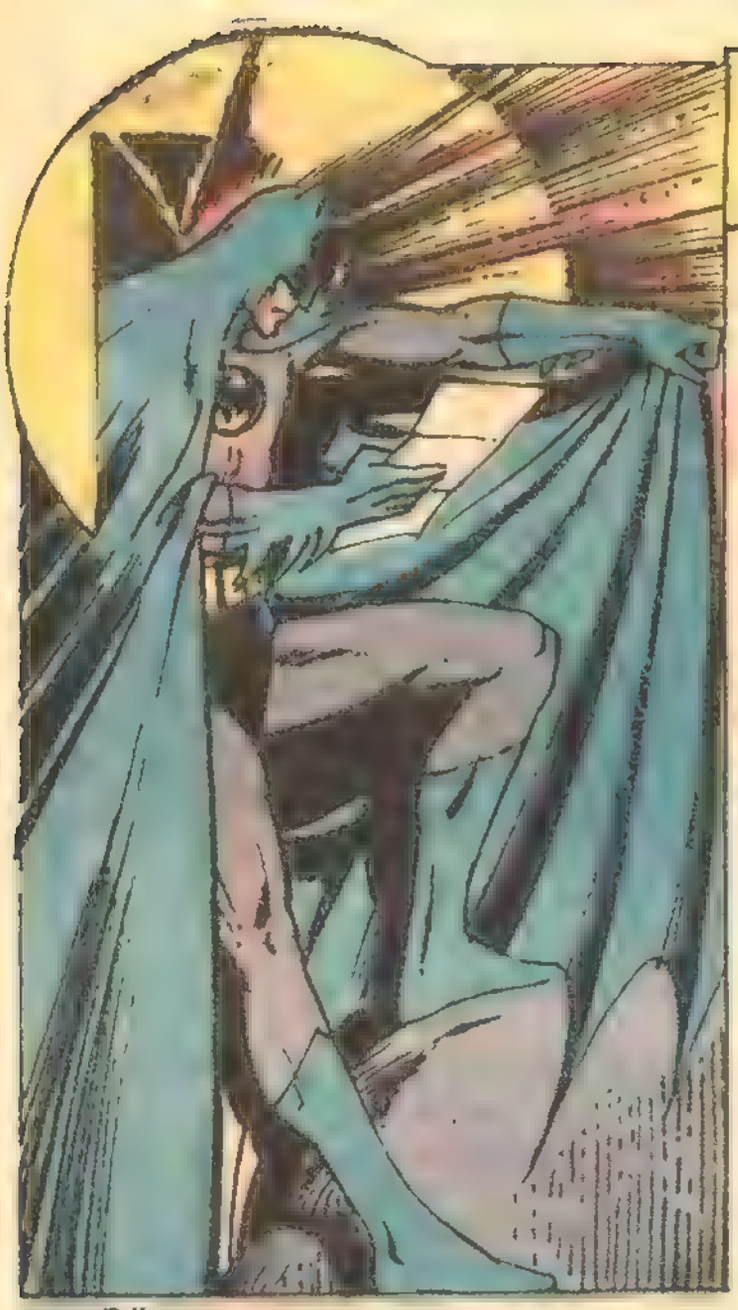
A White with red



B White with blue

C Blue with gold

D Red with white



LETTERS to the BATMAN

S 1826

Dear Editor:

Mr. O'Neil! No! I open **Batman #257** and what do I see? A story containing:

A: kill-crazy birds (sound familiar?),

B: a spoiled brat-king named "Peeble IV", for heaven's sake, from a microscopic island country,

C: a cartoon villain foiled—naturally!—by a well-placed bite from the kid ruler,

D: a penguin with a curare-tipped beak (!!!), and

E: a deathtrap!

How do our heroes get out of this one, folks? Tune in tomorrow—same **Bat**-time, same **Bat**-channel!

"Hail Emperor Penguin," besides camp-and-cliches aplenty, had its endearing traits as well. Like the characterization of **Robin**, the "dignified, mature" Teen Wonder, and the caricaturization of the special guest villain. Perfidious **Penguin** Perpetually Pitches Prodigious Purple Prose. What fun! (Even if you don't take his oh-so-unoriginal plot to take over Swawak seriously for one second.) But the thing that really made this story was the perfectly luscious artwork, in which every line seemed to flow naturally and even the colors seemed more-than-usually vivid. With this issue, the Novick-Giordano team surpassed my all-time favorite Adams-Giordano art. Bravissimo!

And now a constructive solution to many of your plot-problems: get rid of Talia! Seems as if every time O'Neil wants her in a story he has to cook up some totally outlandish situation to bring this totally outlandish character into contact with **The Batman**. Could my favorite writer really be trying to tell us that our hero is enamored of a slightly depraved centerfold girl? A woman who once pointed a machine gun at a human being and said "I'll watch you die!"? Sure, the **Batman's** conflict of "Do I dare love her?" was interesting at first, but he should have since decided that any female who routinely gets her jollies from robbery, murder, and intrigue wasn't worth his trouble. Kindly marry Ms. Ghul off to James Bond and give old Cape-and-Cowl a True Love who's beautiful, brilliant, intrepid . . . and worthy of his respect.

Say! Suppose Oliver Queen has a stunning sister who . . . but I'll leave that to you.

EMILY FLUM, Fayetteville, Ark.

(We HOPE he does, for BATMAN'S sake, since the CAPED CRUSADER shoots Talia DEAD in the January, 1975 DETECTIVE COMICS #444, the beginning of a new Bat-serial by comicdom's awards-winning writer, Len Wein! —GHLIII)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

As of late, when a super-villain is brought back from limbo, he (or she) is made into a person who is believable (assuming you can believe in a guy with green hair or the like). This little tradition has been carried to the **Penguin** now and I must say that, next to the aforementioned green-haired gentleman, he is the best villain to appear in this magazine lately.

To make him more human, he has been given a batch of idiosyncrasies. He is fanatically fond of his pet namesake. He alliterates frantically. He enjoys detective stories—something I can sympathize with. To top it all off, he was drawn realistically—yes, I realize his nose is almost as long as his umbrella, but it looked like it fit him.

"Hail Emperor Penguin" was hailed as "old-fashioned **Batman** action made modern", and it sure was! Besides the return of the **Penguin**, we were given the child ruler of a country nobody's ever heard of, the **Dynamic Duo** climbing up a sheer wall with Bat-ropes and the usual bad pun. But it was all done in an enjoyable way . . . the Denny O'Neil way.

BILL NUTT, Dover, N.J.

(This pair of plaudits for "Hail Emperor Penguin" has us FLYING HIGH! But we should have known that our next critic would show up . . . and DASCH us to earth!—GHLIII)

Dear Editor:

Marshmallows belong at a campfire site, not as the lead story in a **Batman**! Denny O'Neil's "Hail Emperor Penguin" was a piece of hollow fluff, featuring mainly the **Penguin's** boasting and the reader's boredom (since everyone knew the lass to be Talia as soon as she appeared). We had a couple of fist-fights, a recapitulation of **Robin's** pun routine, and a spoiled royal brat. Yawn! The scene with the eagle was interesting, but its quality only served to accentuate the stilted plot. I got the impression that the characters had all seen Denny's script and were doing their best to make it credible; being crime-fighters and crooks and not actors, however, they failed

DAVID DASCH, Brooklyn, N.Y.

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

I tell you, you know you're aging when the yarns that appeared "just a few issues ago" are suddenly 'golden oldies'! What happened?

Glad to see Talia back. She's the one girl I can really tolerate with **Bats**—apparently the only one with brains to match the figure. However, I do have one thing to pick with you: "King Peeble IV," indeed! Where's **Magilla Gorilla**? Child kings went out with the Guru Maharaj Ji, and for "Beach Blanket Bikinis"—all I can say is heaven help Swawak, if it's that far behind!

I've purposely let the **Penguin** cool a while (no pun intended). It's obvious that the costumed crook is going to have to be handled very carefully. The problem with **Pengy** is that he's not funny any more, not even cutesy or camp. He needs a little atmosphere, a little more than a grand megalomania and a penguin pet paranoia. Does anyone seriously have a shape and vocabulary like that? **Penguin** is now **Superman's** sort of foe: flashy, vaguely logical, not the relevant/horror type that **Batman** battles these days. We—and **Batman**—have outgrown the **Penguin**!

BRENDA WANG, Pittsburgh, Pa.

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

Almost a year ago the **Joker** returned to the pages of **Batman**, Denny O'Neil's script was witty and first rate, elevated to a thing of beauty by Neal Adams' excellent artwork. A few months later, we met the **Catwoman** once again. O'Neil's story was routine and the feline felon was reduced to a bit player with class. The artwork was adequate, not exceptional. Then we were told to expect the return of my personal favorite—the pudgy **Penguin**.

The **Penguin** in my eyes has it all over that green-haired clown and the willowy meower. The **Penguin** has style and class and a very droll wit. It is fun to watch him become upset, because this ruffian's dignity usually doesn't allow for ruffled feathers, at least not till the end of the story, and ultimate capture.

Yesterday I purchased the latest issue of **Batman**, and in the words of the poet, gentlemen, "I **was robbed!**"

Never has the **Penguin** uttered an uncouth word like "Brat." O'Neil has reduced the gentleman of crime to a mere caricatured cartoon. The story could fit an ordinary rogue, and Oswald Chesterfield Cobblepot should be saved for something really big, not . . . **routine.**

JOHN EWANIUK, Richlandtown, Pa.

(So: some readers DIG the old-fashioned BAT-style a la O'Neil, and others would rather dig a HOLE for it! Which makes us wonder how the LOW gags of the JOKER will fare NEXT issue, when Schwartz, O'Neil & Co. present "This One Will Kill You, Batman!"—GHLIII)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

I confidently predict that, of all your recent **Batman** stories, "Hail Emperor Penguin" will evoke the most divided reaction. Although your recent revivals of other classic villains have been overwhelmingly and deservedly praised, practically all—the **Scarecrow, Two-Face, the Joker**, even the **Catwoman**—have been depicted as mysterious, enigmatic foes, as much creatures of the night as **Batman** himself.

The **Penguin**, on the other hand, stems from another of the **Batman's** traditions—a mood just as classic but one which, especially after its video overworking, many fans would perhaps prefer forgotten. This is the farcical, yet deadly enemy—whose bizarre mannerisms and tactics are entertaining and amusing, but who impresses the reader all the more with the realization that whatever his eccentricities, here is an ingenious and ruthless man to be reckoned with

Such characters, however ludicrous some literal-minded readers may consider them, are an integral part of the **Batman** tradition, and to deny them their occasional spotlight is to deny a part of that tradition itself. I had my doubts about the ability of Denny O'Neil, with his sometimes overly-bitter characterization of **Batman**, to write such a story—but "Hail Emperor Penguin" was truly "old-fashioned **Batman** action." I very much enjoyed this story

RICH MORRISSEY, Framingham, Ma.

• • • • •

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: "The Great Batman Swindle" appeared in **Detective Comics #222**, August, '55; "Heroes by Proxy" was featured in **Batman #29**, back in June-July, 1945; "The Strange Costumes of Batman" was an offering of **Detective Comics #165**, November, '50; "Two Batman Too Many" came out in **Batman #177**, December, '65; "The Failure of Bruce Wayne" was out in the December, 1958 issue of **Batman, #120.**

• • • • •

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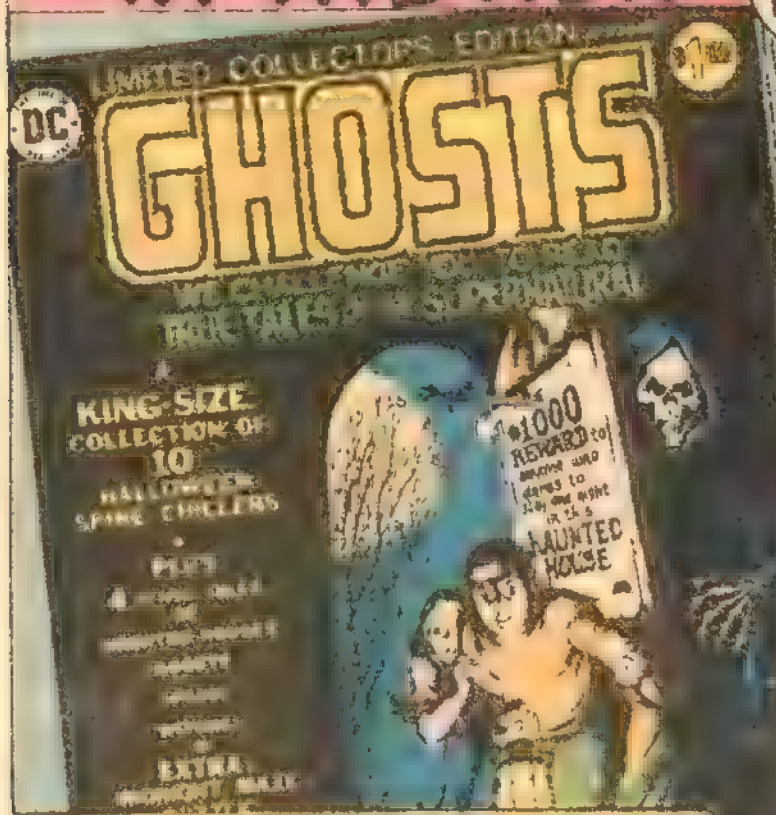

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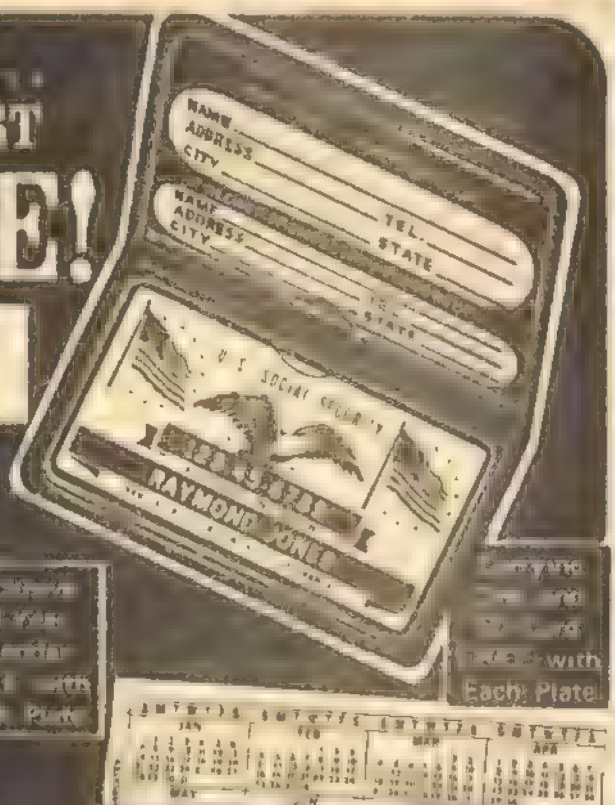

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OF COURSE, IF SOMEONE WANTS TO IMPERSONATE THE BATMAN, HE NEEDS THE RIGHT COSTUME...
BUT WHICH COSTUME? I'VE WORN QUITE A FEW OF THEM! YET THE STRANGEST WAS ONE I NEVER WORE!
BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
WHAT IS IT THAT TERRORIZES CROOKS? WHAT DO THEY DREAD MOST? YES, IT IS THE FLASHING FIGURE OF BATMAN, CLAD IN THE SHADOWY COLORS OF BLUE AND GRAY. AND ON OCCASION, THE FAMED FIGHTER HAS DONNED OTHER UNIFORMS FOR SPECIFIC JOBS. BUT NOW-- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING CAREERS--THE DARING DUO OF BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST REVEAL A TOP-SECRET COSTUME, NEVER BEFORE SEEN AS THEY BATTLE A NEW ENEMY WHO FORCES THEM TO USE ALMOST ALL OF--
The STRANGE COSTUMES of BATMAN!
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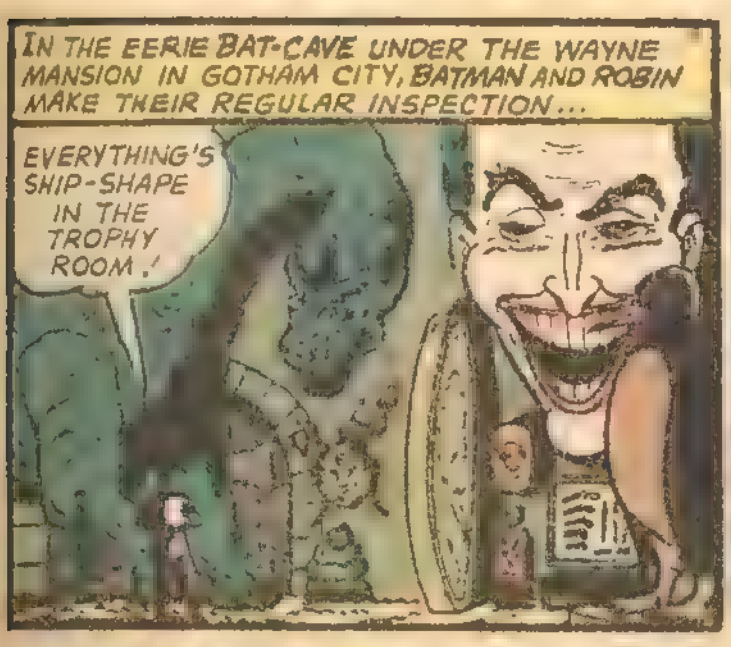
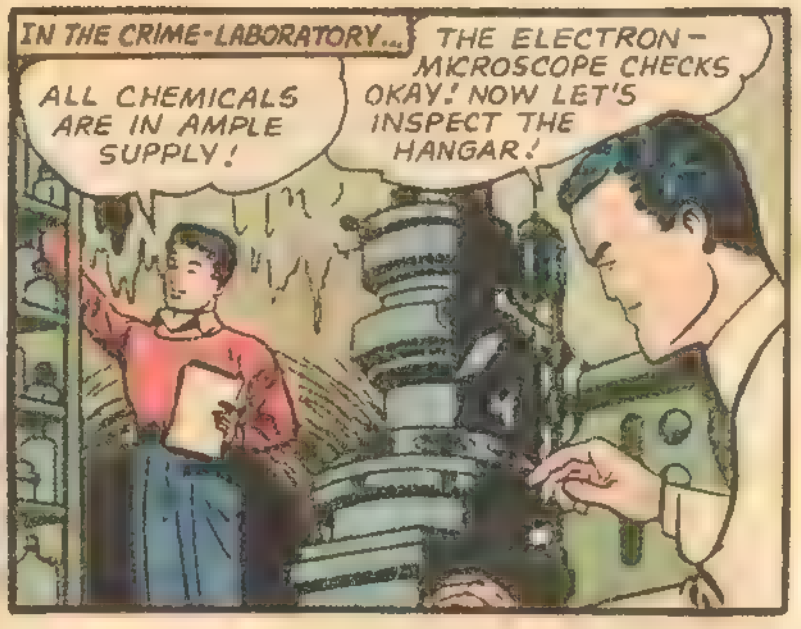
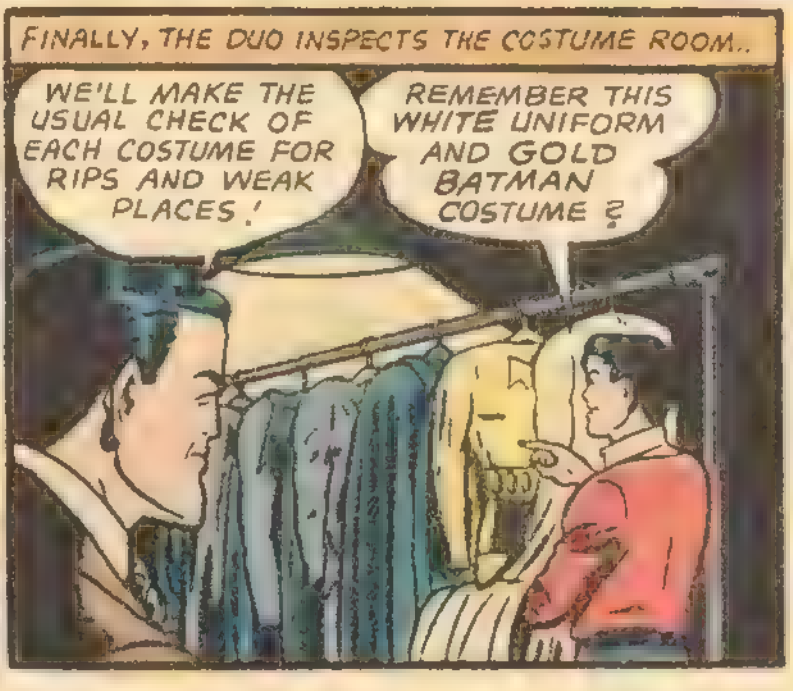
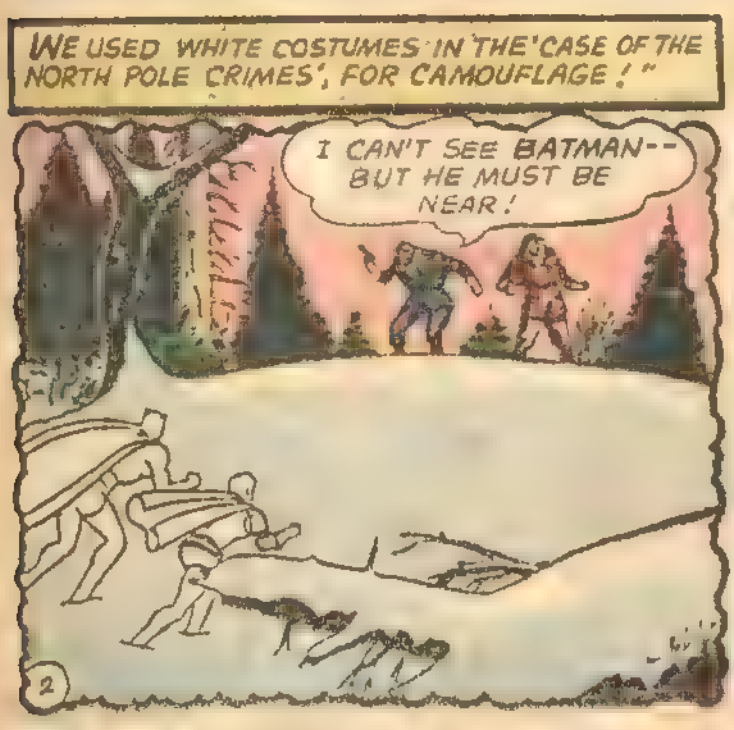
ART. DICK SPRANG

STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN


IN THE EERIE BAT-CAVE UNDER THE WAYNE MANSION IN GOTHAM CITY, BATMAN AND ROBIN MAKE THEIR REGULAR INSPECTION...
EVERYTHING'S SHIP-SHAPE IN THE TROPHY ROOM!


IN THE CRIME-LABORATORY...
ALL CHEMICALS ARE IN AMPLE SUPPLY!
THE ELECTRON-MICROSCOPE CHECKS OKAY! NOW LET'S INSPECT THE HANGAR!


FINALLY, THE DUO INSPECTS THE COSTUME ROOM..
WE'LL MAKE THE USUAL CHECK OF EACH COSTUME FOR RIPS AND WEAK PLACES!
REMEMBER THIS WHITE UNIFORM AND GOLD BATMAN COSTUME?



"AND THE GOLD-CLOTH COSTUME YOU USED IN THE 'CASE OF THE MIDAS TOUCH'!"
I HAVE THE SECRET OF KING MIDAS! EVERYTHING I TOUCH BECOMES GOLD--EVEN BATMAN!

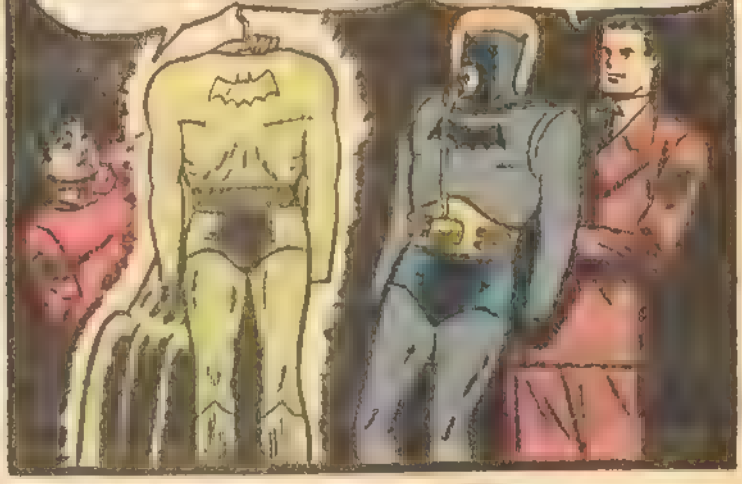
THE INSPECTION AWAKENS MORE MEMORIES OF THE PAST--THE PAST OF THE TWO GREATEST CRIME-FIGHTERS WHO EVER LIVED!

THIS SUPER-THIN CELLOPHANE COSTUME I KEPT CRUMPLED UP AND HIDDEN IN MY BOOT HEEL WHEN I ONCE ENTERED PRISON AS BRUCE WAYNE--SO I COULD BECOME BATMAN IN PRISON!

AND COULD BE DESTROYED WITH A MATCH SO IT WOULDN'T BE FOUND ON YOU AND GIVE AWAY YOUR IDENTITY!

THIS LUMINOUS BAT-COSTUME WHICH GLOWS IN THE DARK SCARED A SUPERSTITIOUS CROOK INTO SUBMISSION!

AND REMEMBER THIS BAT-SPACE SUIT I WORE WHEN WE WERE PROJECTED INTO THE FUTURE?



"IT SAVED MY LIFE WHEN THOSE SPACE-PIRATES DESTROYED A SHIP AND I WAS CAST ADRIFT!"

AND SO THEY EXAMINE THE VARIOUS BAT-COSTUMES, WHICH ARE ALIKE IN MANY RESPECTS BUT WHICH HAVE DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES...

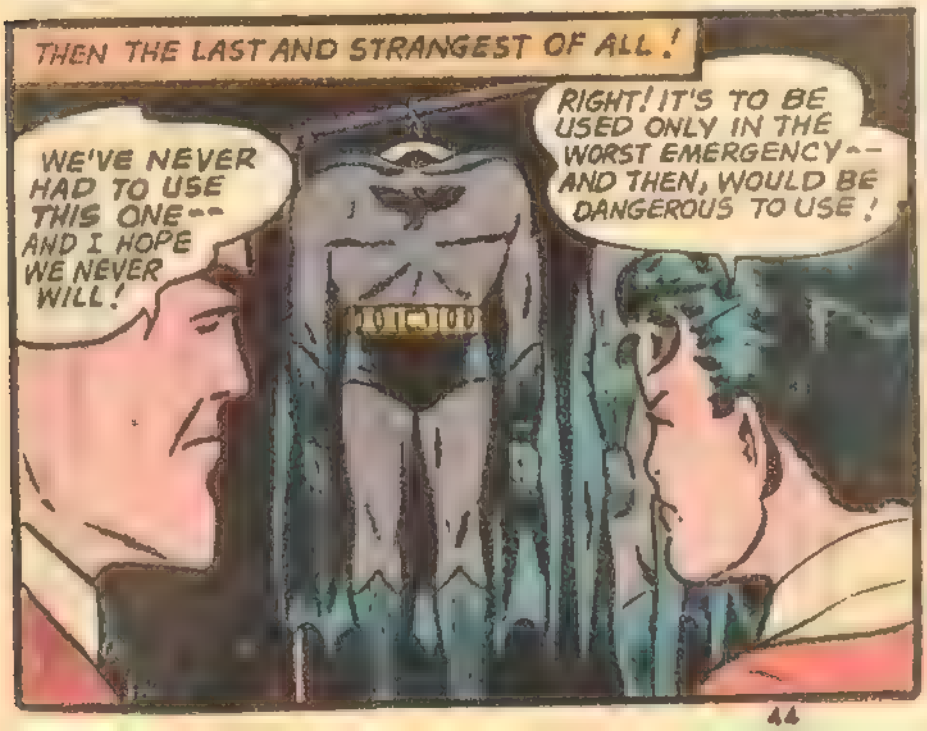
THIS AIR-COSTUME IS OKAY!

SO IS THIS SUB-COSTUME!

THEN THE LAST AND STRANGEST OF ALL!

WE'VE NEVER HAD TO USE THIS ONE--AND I HOPE WE NEVER WILL!

RIGHT! IT'S TO BE USED ONLY IN THE WORST EMERGENCY--AND THEN, WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO USE!



WHAT IS THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THIS STRANGEST OF ALL COSTUMES? WHY CAN IT ONLY BE USED IN DIREST NEED? LOOK CLOSELY--IT MAY RESEMBLE BATMAN'S OTHER BATTLE RAIMENT, BUT THE CLUE TO ITS FANTASTIC SECRET IS IN PLAIN SIGHT!

?

STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN

FOR, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, A SINISTER NEW CORPORATION OF CRIME IS BEING FORMED, HEADED BY DOCTOR ROBERT DARCY.
WHY SHOULD I WASTE MY SCIENTIFIC GENIUS IN A CHEAP LABORATORY JOB, WHEN IT CAN REAP MILLIONS FOR US?
YOU CAN STYMIE THE POLICE, DOC, BUT NOT BATMAN!
THAT HOODED DETECTIVE! HE'LL BE HELPLESS AGAINST MY SCIENTIFIC SKILL!
YEAH?
AND SHORTLY AFTER, THE GANG'S FIRST CRIME STRIKES GOTHAM CITY WITH THE FEROCITY OF A THUNDER-BOLT!
LOOK, BRUCE! THE BAT-SIGNAL CALLING US!
THAT FIRE--IT'S ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE MONARCH STATE BUILDING!
SWIFTLY, BRUCE WAYNE SLIPS INTO ONE OF THE COSTUMES THAT TRANSFORMS HIM INTO THE FAMED BATMAN!
THAT FIRE MUST BE THE REASON FOR THE POLICE SUMMONING US!
AND WE'LL FIND COMMISSIONER GORDON AT THAT FIRE! LET'S GO!
MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMOBILE RACES TO THE BURNING MENACE...
BATMAN, WE THINK THE FIRE WAS CAUSED BY PACKAGES DELIVERED TO THE 50TH FLOOR, THEN BURST INTO FLAMES! SOME PEOPLE ARE TRAPPED IN THE TOWER ABOVE THE FIRE!
WHY DON'T THE FIREMEN RESCUE THEM?
THEY TRIED, BUT THE DOORS ON THE 50TH FLOOR ARE ALL JAMMED--APPARENTLY BY HEAT!
WE'LL TRY IT--FROM THE OUTSIDE!

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LIVE IN PERSON
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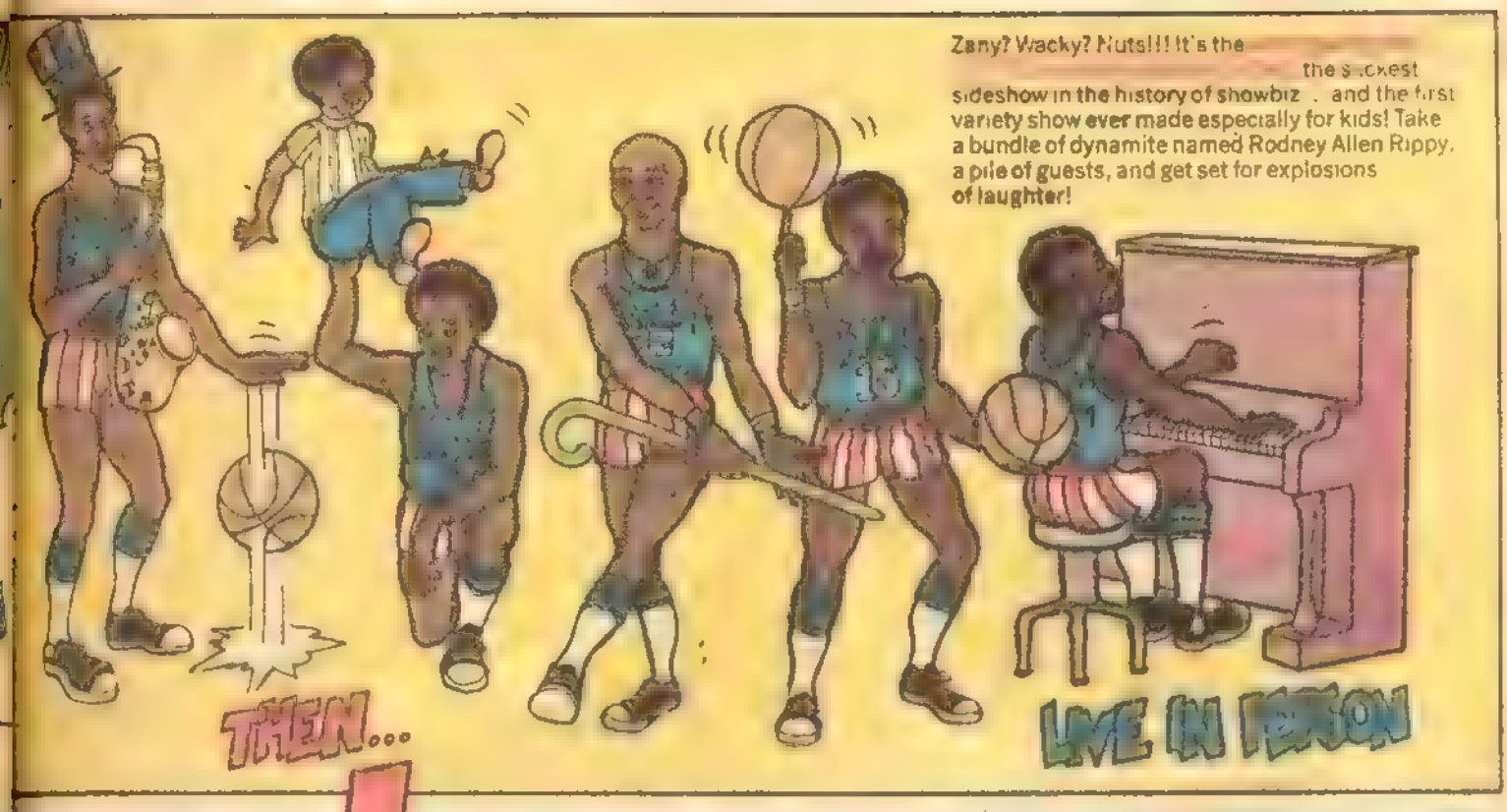
Zing into the future with the ...RIDGE FAMILY in the year 2200... rockin' and rollin' from Mars to Venus, with outer space trends and outta sight songs.
Lost in the Amazon! Whirled back in time...to a hidden valley where dinosaurs rumble and roar! A modern family shares exciting adventures with their new found Stone Age friends in...


Zany? Wacky? Nuts!!! It's the
the sickest
sideshow in the history of showbiz . and the first variety show ever made especially for kids! Take a bundle of dynamite named Rodney Allen Rippy, a pile of guests, and get set for explosions of laughter!
THEN...
LIVE IN PERSON

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LIVE IN PERSON

THRILLS 'n CHILLS 'n GIGGLES 'n LAUGHS!
ALL RIGHT HERE ON CBS

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING

8:00	Speed Buggy
8:25	In The News*
8:30	Scooby Doo, Where Are You?
9:00	Jeannie
[illegible]	
12:30	Fat Albert
1:00	CBS Children's Film Festival
1:30	CBS Children's Film Festival

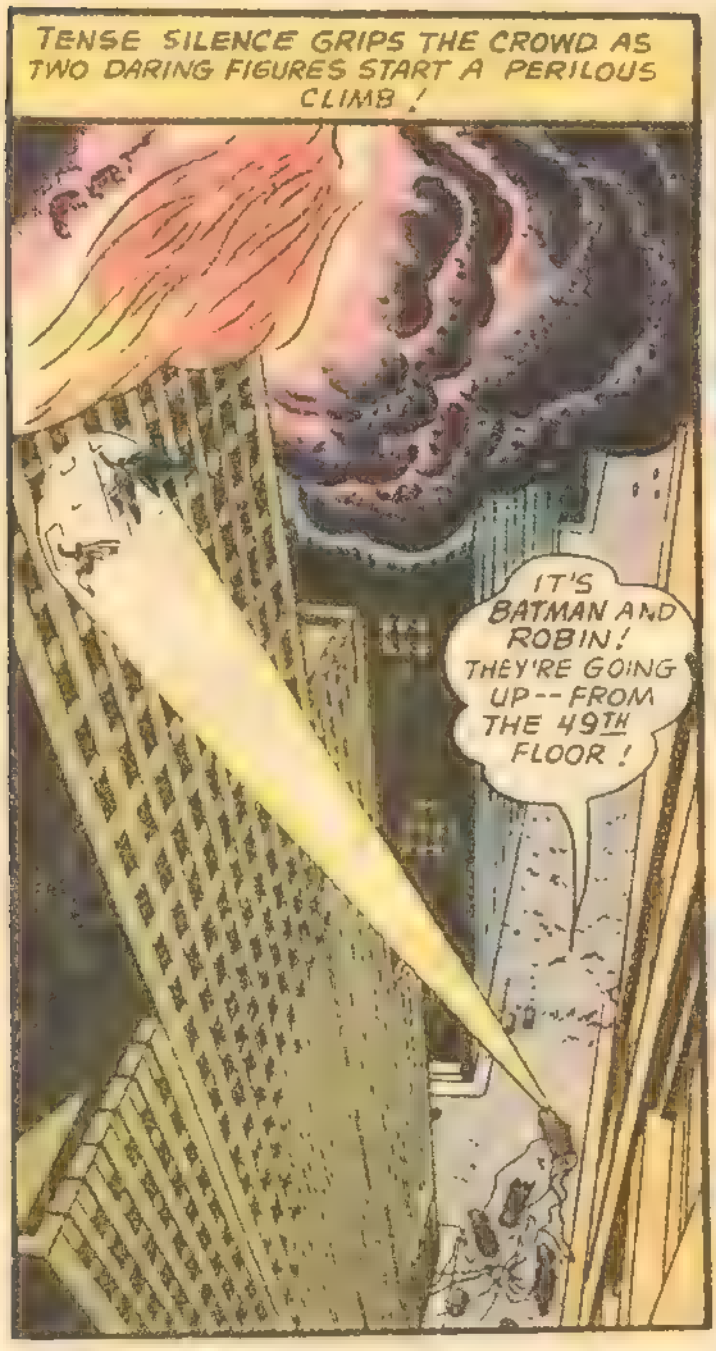
SUNDAY MORNING

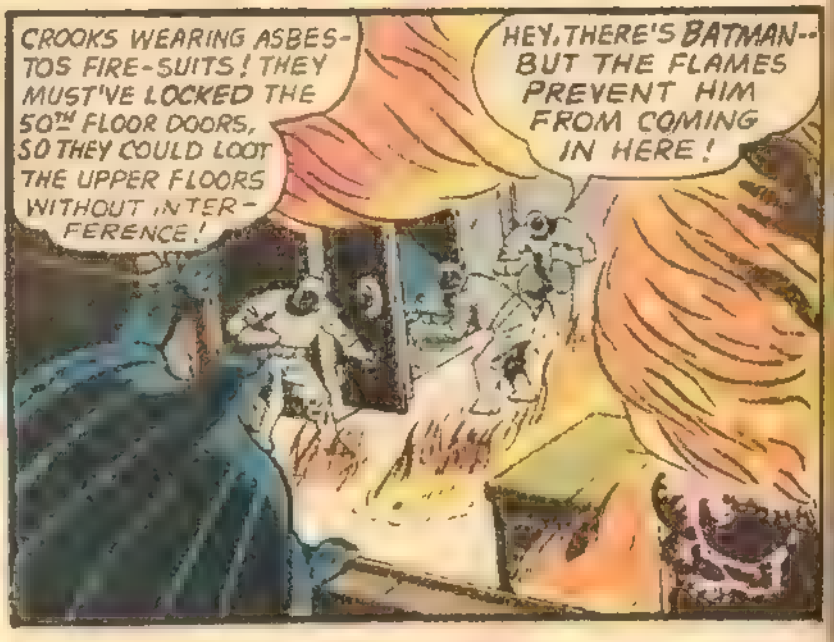
9:00	My Favorite Martians
9:30	Bailey's Comet

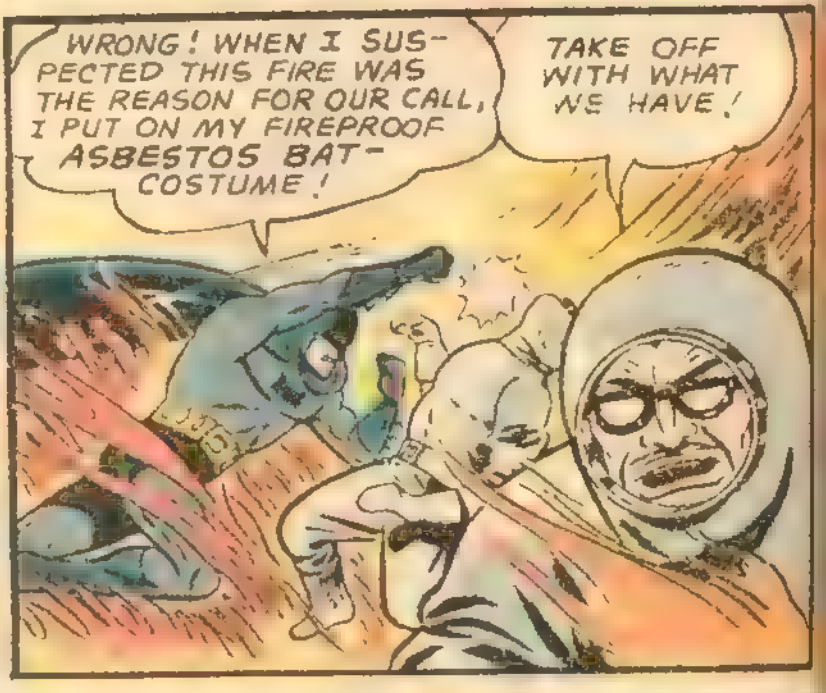
*In a few cases every show on both Saturday and Sunday [illegible] a caption of the Children's Film Festival

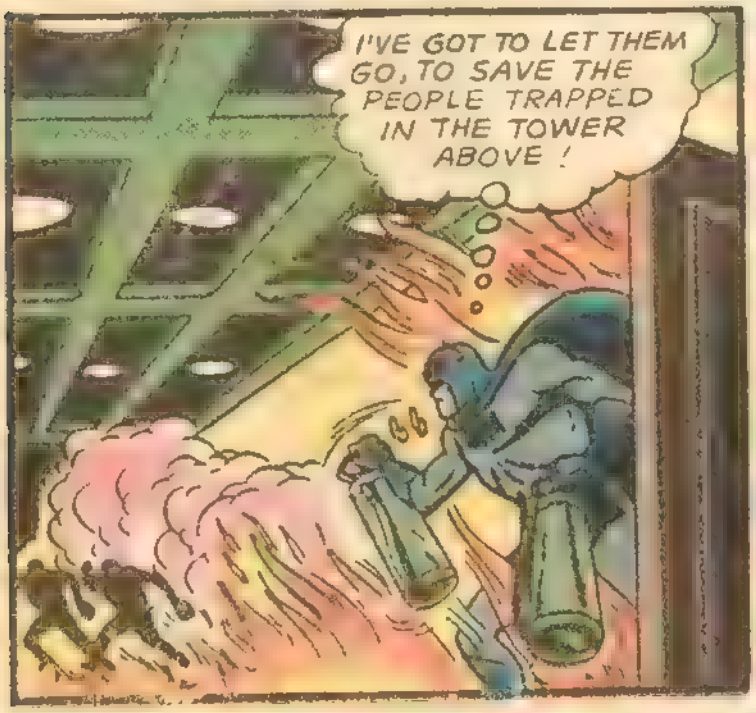
Program times may vary on your channel. Please check local TV listings.

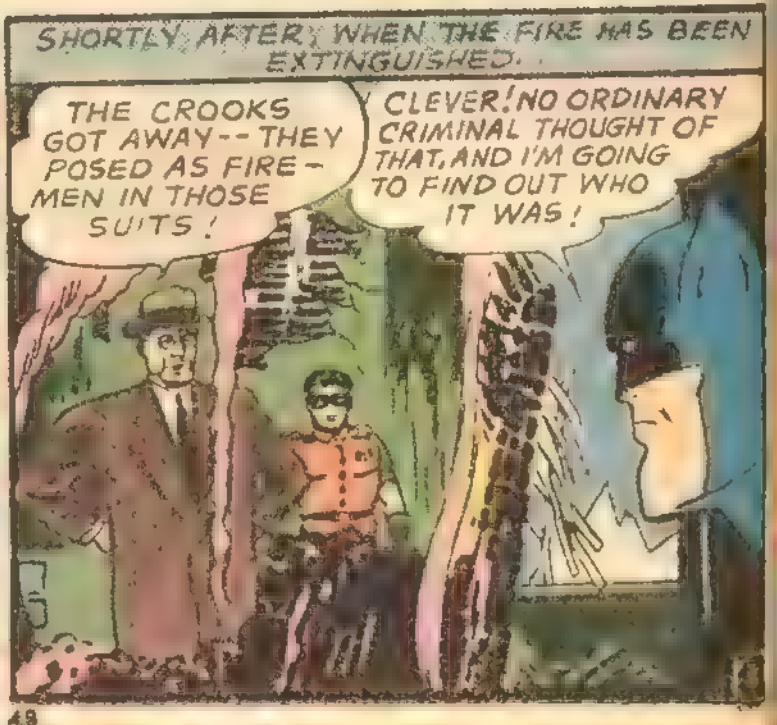
Hey, it's us, Archie and the Gang, in a whole new scene... tripping through America's past! Watch how kids like us made history, in the good old U.S. of ARCHIE Brand new!


TENSE SILENCE GRIPS THE CROWD AS TWO DARING FIGURES START A PERILOUS CLIMB !
IT'S BATMAN AND ROBIN ! THEY'RE GOING UP -- FROM THE 49TH FLOOR !


CROOKS WEARING ASBESTOS FIRE-SUITS ! THEY MUST'VE LOCKED THE 50TH FLOOR DOORS, SO THEY COULD LOOT THE UPPER FLOORS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE !
HEY, THERE'S BATMAN -- BUT THE FLAMES PREVENT HIM FROM COMING IN HERE !

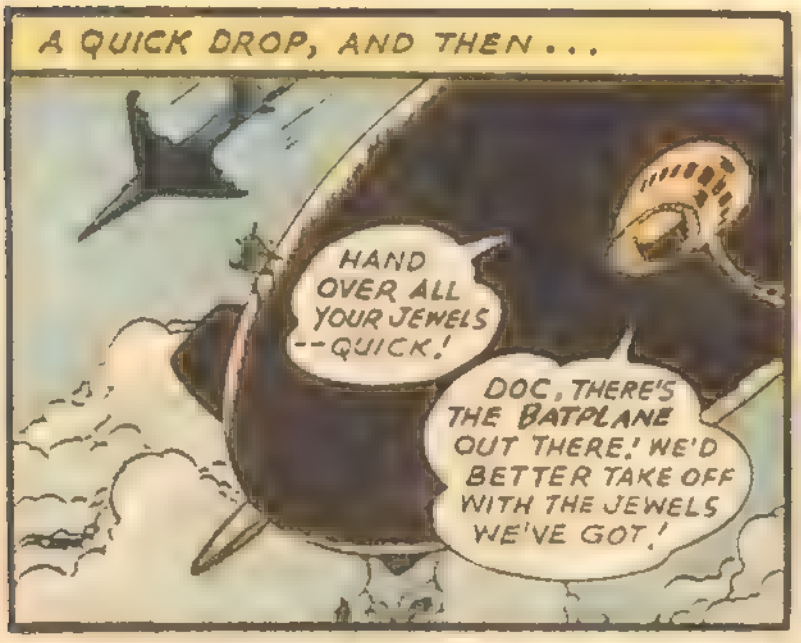

WRONG ! WHEN I SUSPECTED THIS FIRE WAS THE REASON FOR OUR CALL, I PUT ON MY FIREPROOF ASBESTOS BAT-COSTUME !
TAKE OFF WITH WHAT WE HAVE !


I'VE GOT TO LET THEM GO, TO SAVE THE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THE TOWER ABOVE !

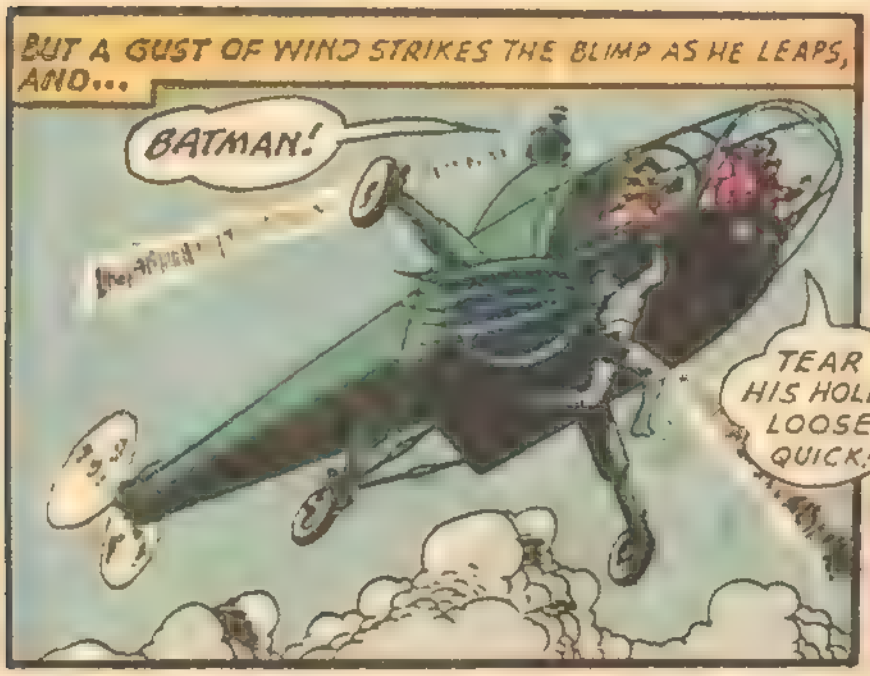

SHORTLY AFTER, WHEN THE FIRE HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED.
THE CROOKS GOT AWAY -- THEY POSED AS FIREMEN IN THOSE SUITS !
CLEVER ! NO ORDINARY CRIMINAL THOUGHT OF THAT, AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHO IT WAS !

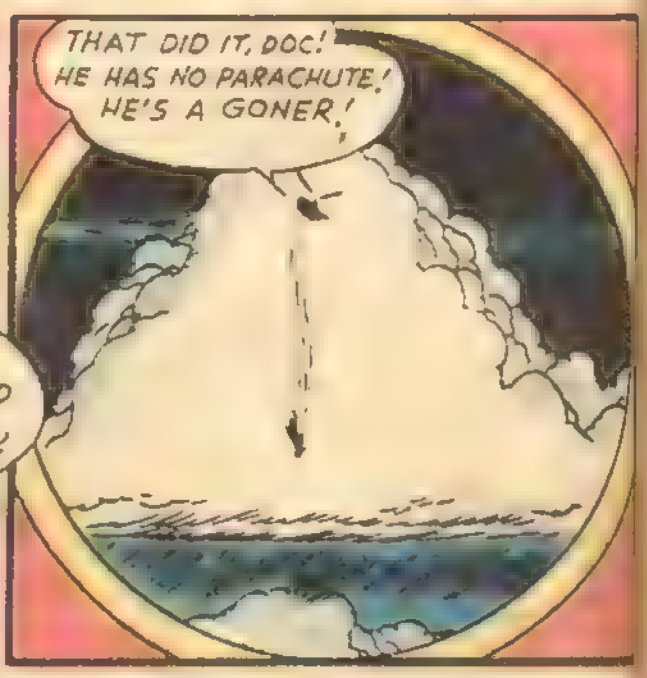
STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN

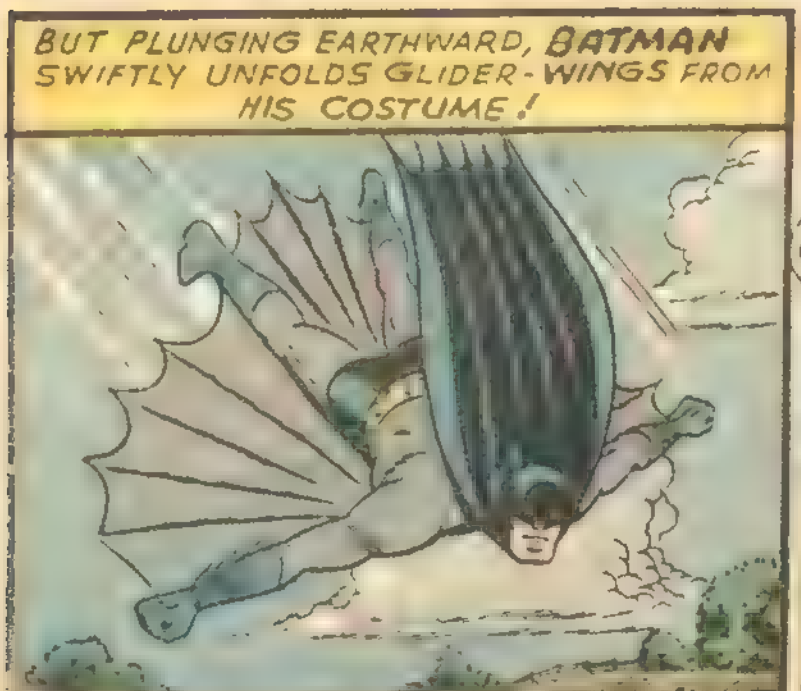
BACK IN THEIR CRIME-LAB, BATMAN SCRUTINIZES THE FILE OF MICROFILM...
THAT'S OUR MAN.! I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIS FACE THROUGH THE VISION-PLATE HE WORE.!
"DOCTOR ROBERT DARCY, EXPERT CHEMIST AND TECHNICIAN--"
BATMAN, I HAVE A HUNCH HE'LL BE HARD TO FIND!
DR. ROBERT DARCY
HARD TO FIND, INDEED! THE RENEGADE SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED UNTIL, COMPLETELY BY ACCIDENT...
"--AND SO MILLIONAIRE REGGIE LAYTON AND HIS GUESTS START ON A UNIQUE PARTY IN THE SKY!"
LOOK--THOSE MEN BY THE HELICOPTER IN THE BACKGROUND!
ONE OF THEM IS DARCY! LET'S GET THERE FAST!
A QUICK CHANGE--AND SOON THE BATPLANE PICKS UP THE HOT TRAIL...
LAYTON'S GUESTS WERE LOADED WITH JEWELS --I'M CERTAIN THAT FACT ATTRACTED DARCY!
TURN THE DUST-BLOWERS TOWARD THE BLIMP! THEY'LL MAKE IT HELPLESS BY STOPPING ITS MOTORS!
I DON'T SEE HOW DUST CAN DO THAT!
IT'S EMERY DUST BEING BLOWN INTO THE BLIMP'S MOTORS! NOW GET READY TO BOARD IT AND WE'LL HEIST A FORTUNE IN JEWELS!
THE MOTORS STOPPED-- WE'RE DRIFTING!
BATMAN, BE CAREFUL!
I'LL DROP ON TOP OF THE BLIMP AND WORK DOWN TO THE GONDOLA, ROBIN!

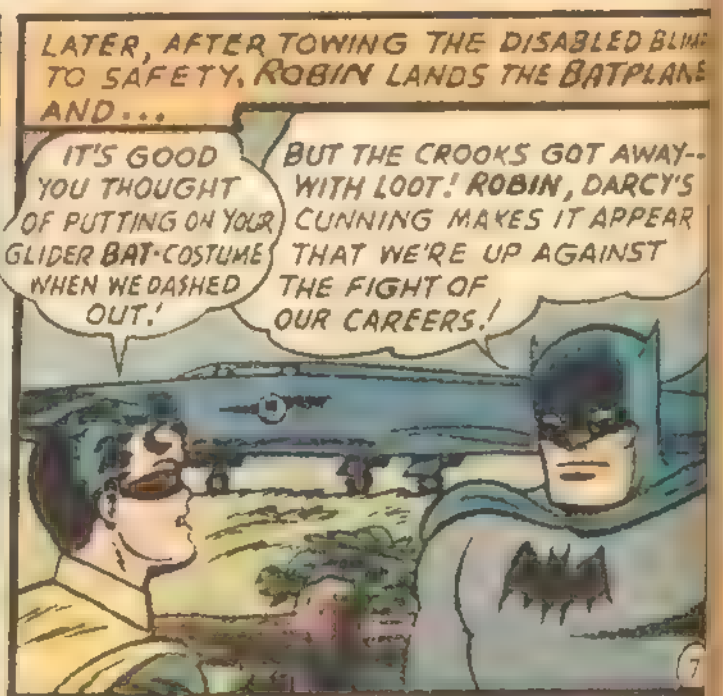

A QUICK DROP, AND THEN . . .
HAND OVER ALL YOUR JEWELS --QUICK!
DOC, THERE'S THE BATPLANE OUT THERE! WE'D BETTER TAKE OFF WITH THE JEWELS WE'VE GOT!

CAN'T LET THEM ESCAPE FROM ME! I CAN JUMP INTO THE COCKPIT OF THAT HELICOPTER!

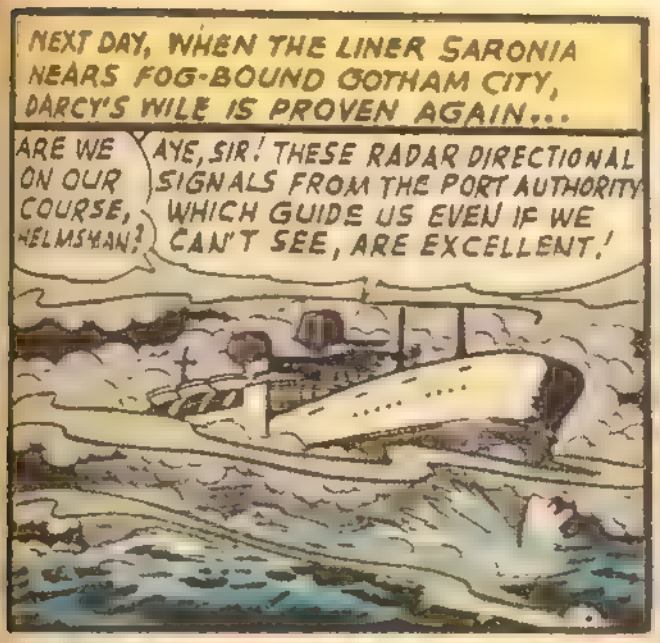

BUT A GUST OF WIND STRIKES THE BLIMP AS HE LEAPS, AND...
BATMAN!
TEAR HIS HOLD LOOSE, QUICK!

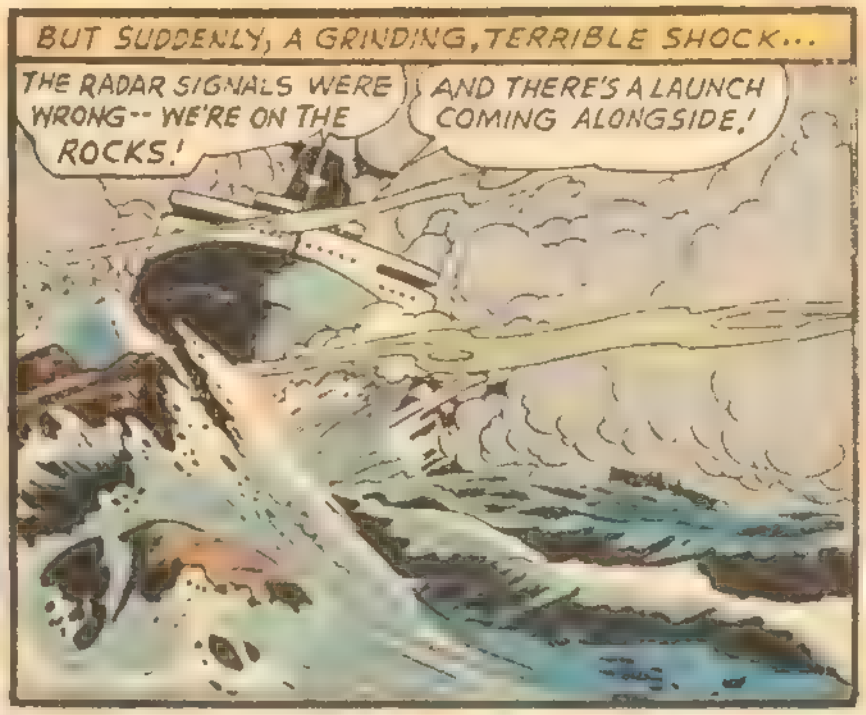

THAT DID IT, DOC! HE HAS NO PARACHUTE! HE'S A GONER!

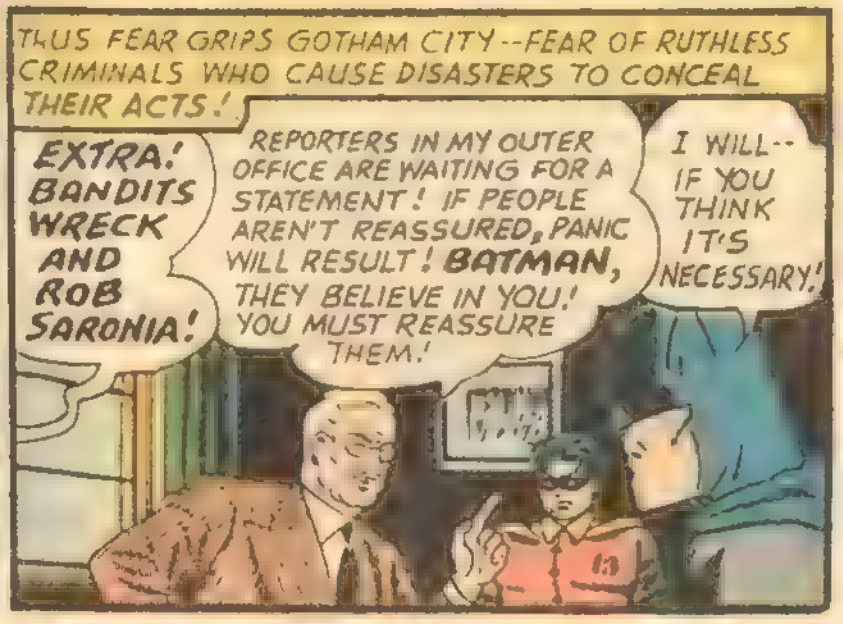

BUT PLUNGING EARTHWARD, BATMAN SWIFTLY UNFOLDS GLIDER-WINGS FROM HIS COSTUME!

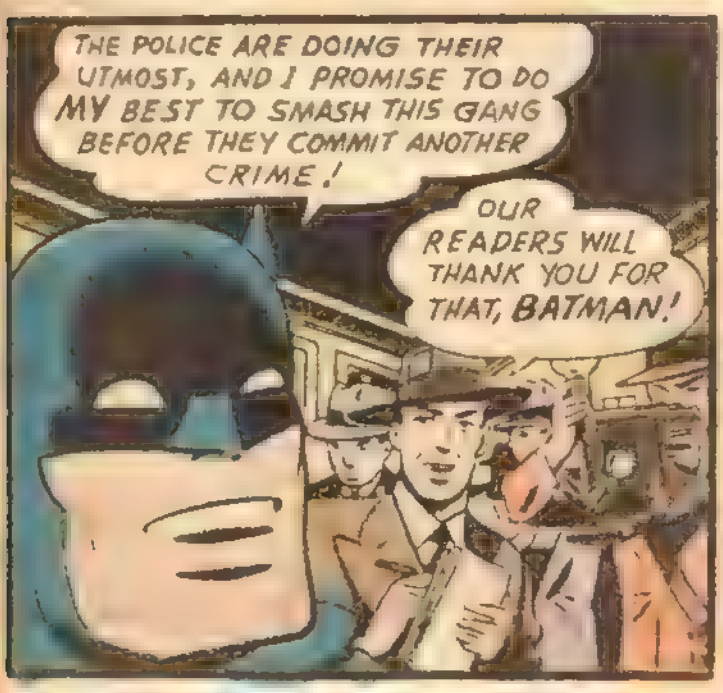

LATER, AFTER TOWING THE DISABLED BLIMP TO SAFETY, ROBIN LANDS THE BATPLANE AND...
IT'S GOOD YOU THOUGHT OF PUTTING ON YOUR GLIDER BAT-COSTUME WHEN WE DASHED OUT!
BUT THE CROOKS GOT AWAY--WITH LOOT! ROBIN, DARCY'S CUNNING MAKES IT APPEAR THAT WE'RE UP AGAINST THE FIGHT OF OUR CAREERS!

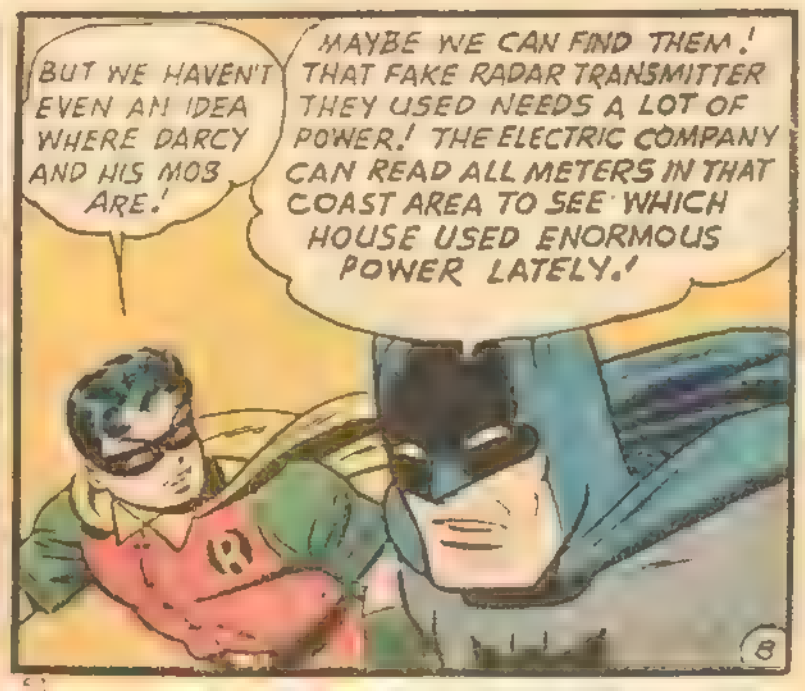
STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN

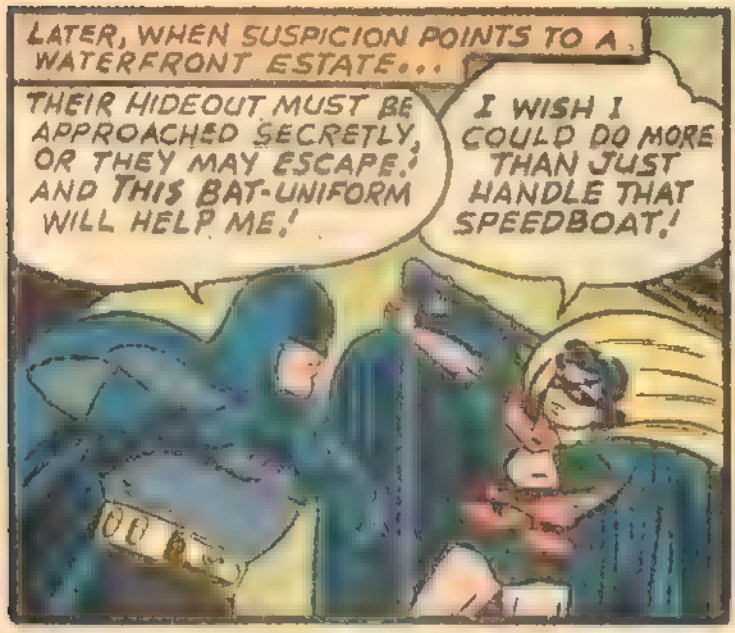

NEXT DAY, WHEN THE LINER SARONIA NEARS FOG-BOUND GOTHAM CITY, DARCY'S WILE IS PROVEN AGAIN...
ARE WE ON OUR COURSE, HELMSMAN?
AYE, SIR! THESE RADAR DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS FROM THE PORT AUTHORITY WHICH GUIDE US EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE, ARE EXCELLENT!

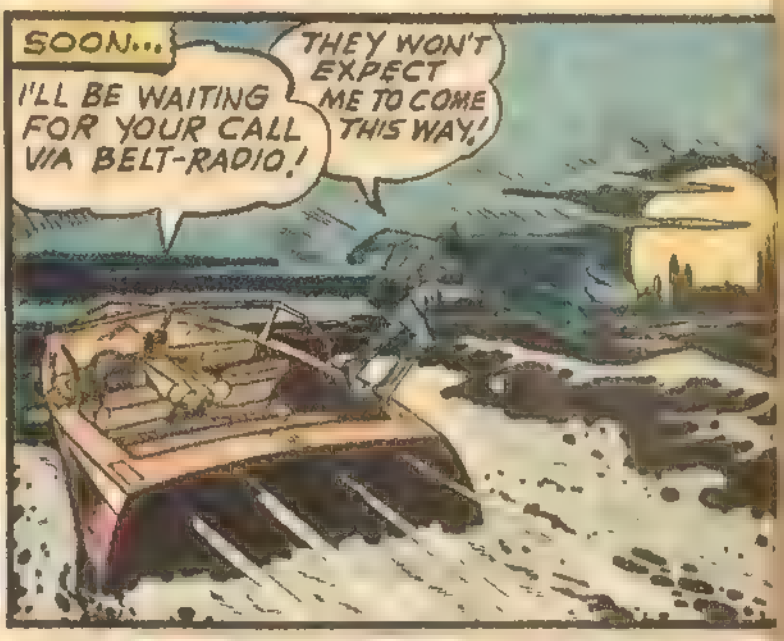

BUT SUDDENLY, A GRINDING, TERRIBLE SHOCK...
THE RADAR SIGNALS WERE WRONG -- WE'RE ON THE ROCKS!
AND THERE'S A LAUNCH COMING ALONGSIDE!

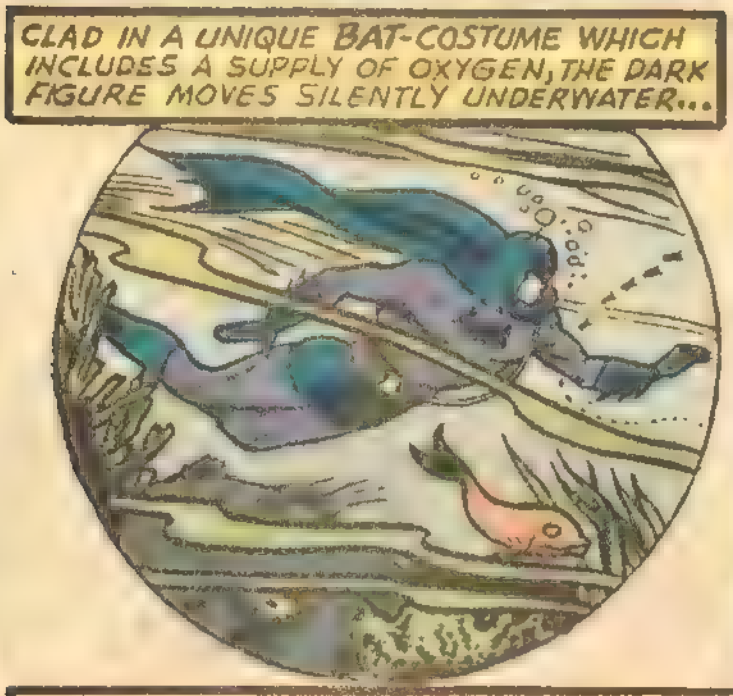

THUS FEAR GRIPS GOTHAM CITY -- FEAR OF RUTHLESS CRIMINALS WHO CAUSE DISASTERS TO CONCEAL THEIR ACTS!
EXTRA! BANDITS WRECK AND ROB SARONIA!
REPORTERS IN MY OUTER OFFICE ARE WAITING FOR A STATEMENT! IF PEOPLE AREN'T REASSURED, PANIC WILL RESULT! BATMAN, THEY BELIEVE IN YOU! YOU MUST REASSURE THEM!
I WILL -- IF YOU THINK IT'S NECESSARY!

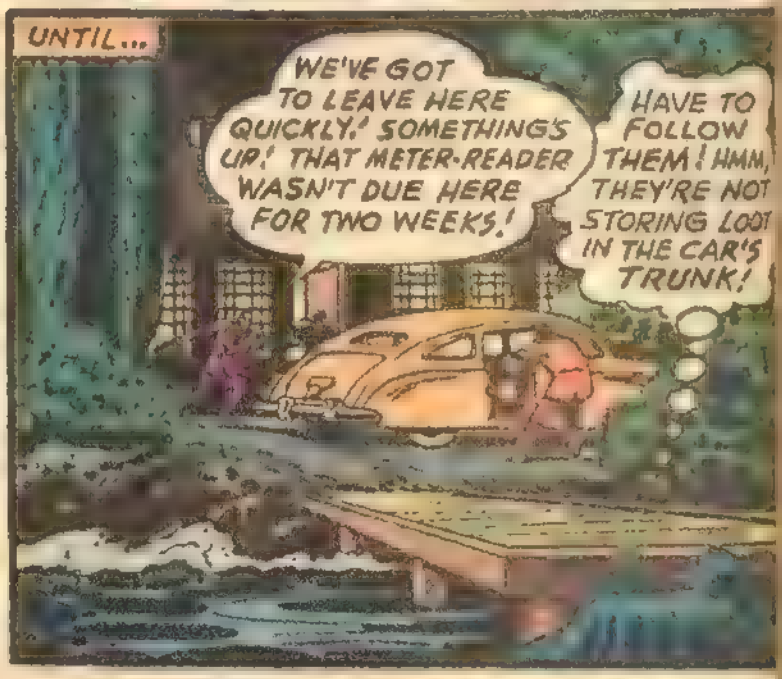

THE POLICE ARE DOING THEIR UTMOST, AND I PROMISE TO DO MY BEST TO SMASH THIS GANG BEFORE THEY COMMIT ANOTHER CRIME!
OUR READERS WILL THANK YOU FOR THAT, BATMAN!

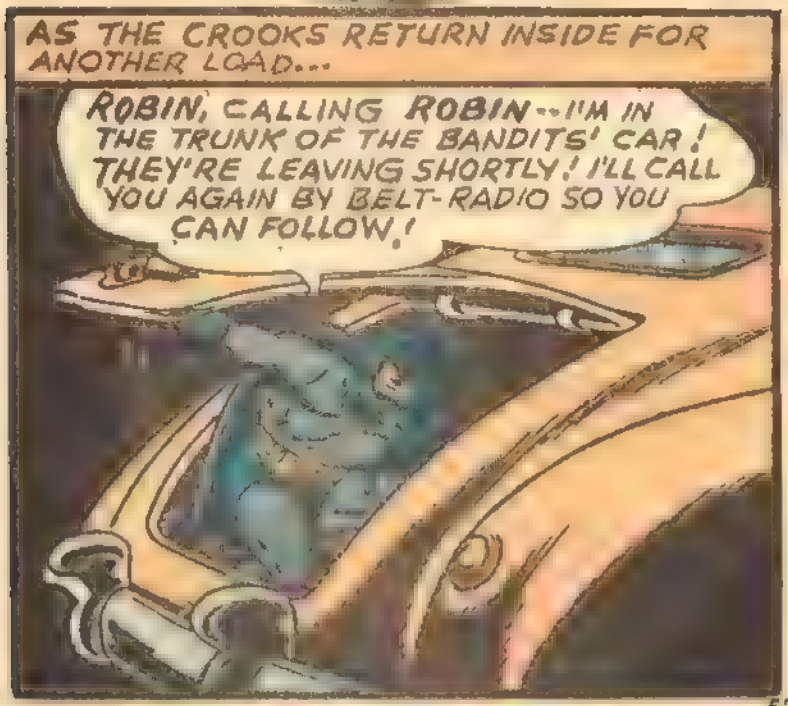

BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN AN IDEA WHERE DARCY AND HIS MOB ARE!
MAYBE WE CAN FIND THEM! THAT FAKE RADAR TRANSMITTER THEY USED NEEDS A LOT OF POWER! THE ELECTRIC COMPANY CAN READ ALL METERS IN THAT COAST AREA TO SEE WHICH HOUSE USED ENORMOUS POWER LATELY!

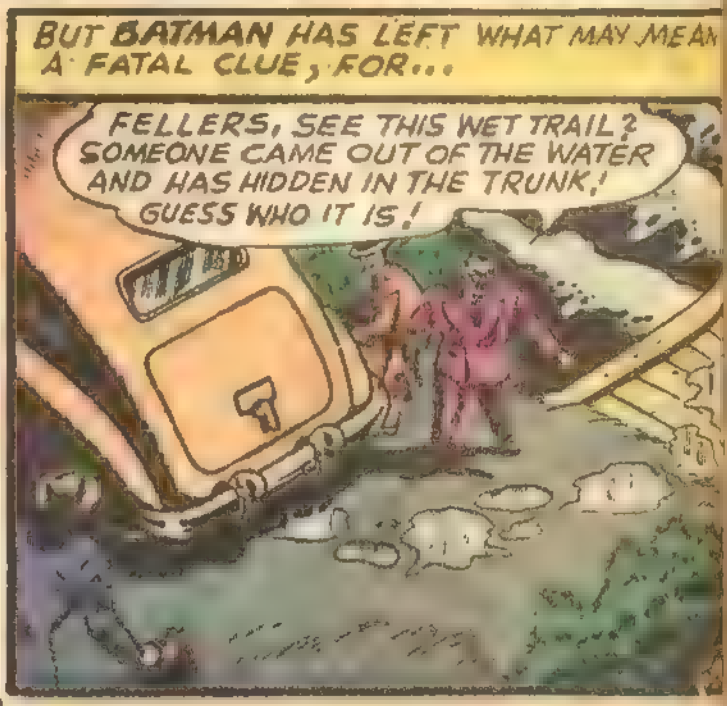

LATER, WHEN SUSPICION POINTS TO A WATERFRONT ESTATE...
THEIR HIDEOUT MUST BE APPROACHED SECRETLY, OR THEY MAY ESCAPE! AND THIS BAT-UNIFORM WILL HELP ME!
I WISH I COULD DO MORE THAN JUST HANDLE THAT SPEEDBOAT!


SOON...
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL VIA BELT-RADIO!
THEY WON'T EXPECT ME TO COME THIS WAY!

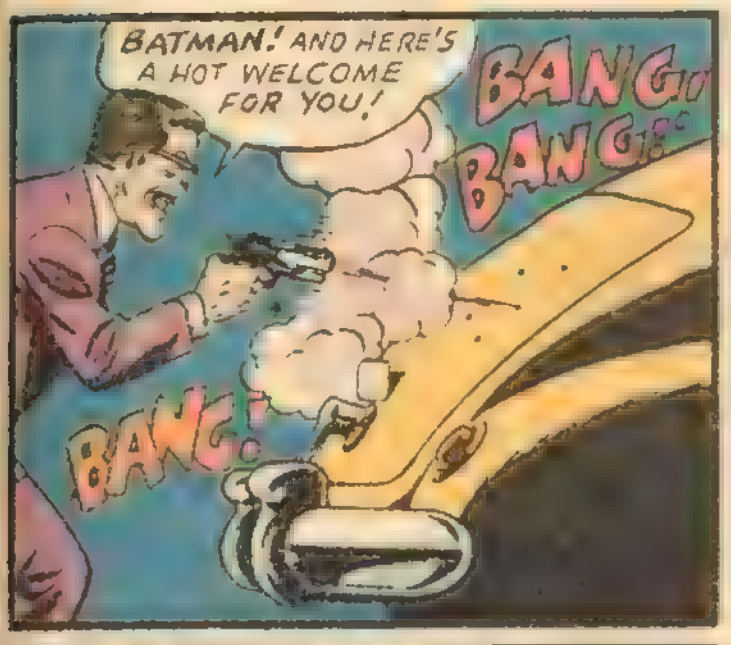

CLAD IN A UNIQUE BAT-COSTUME WHICH INCLUDES A SUPPLY OF OXYGEN, THE DARK FIGURE MOVES SILENTLY UNDERWATER...

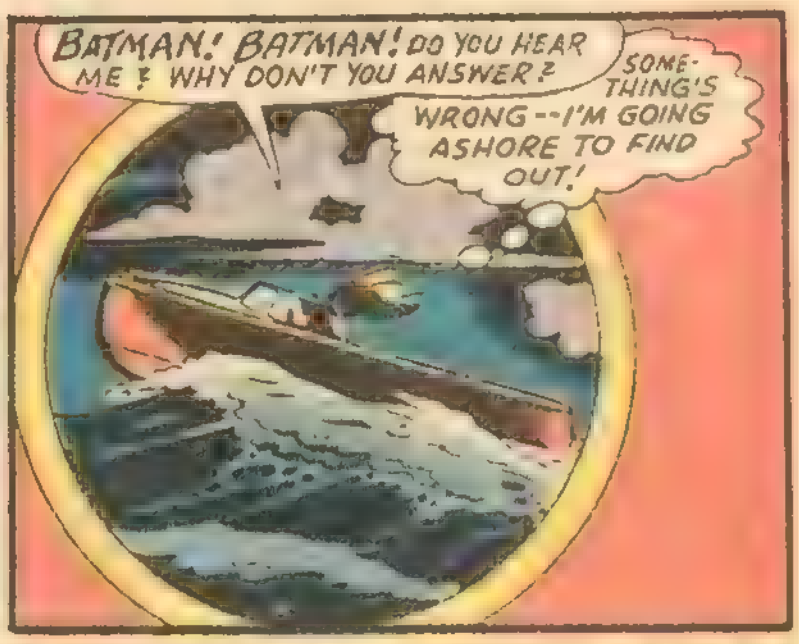

UNTIL...
WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE HERE QUICKLY! SOMETHING'S UP! THAT METER-READER WASN'T DUE HERE FOR TWO WEEKS!
HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM! HMM, THEY'RE NOT STORING LOOT IN THE CAR'S TRUNK!

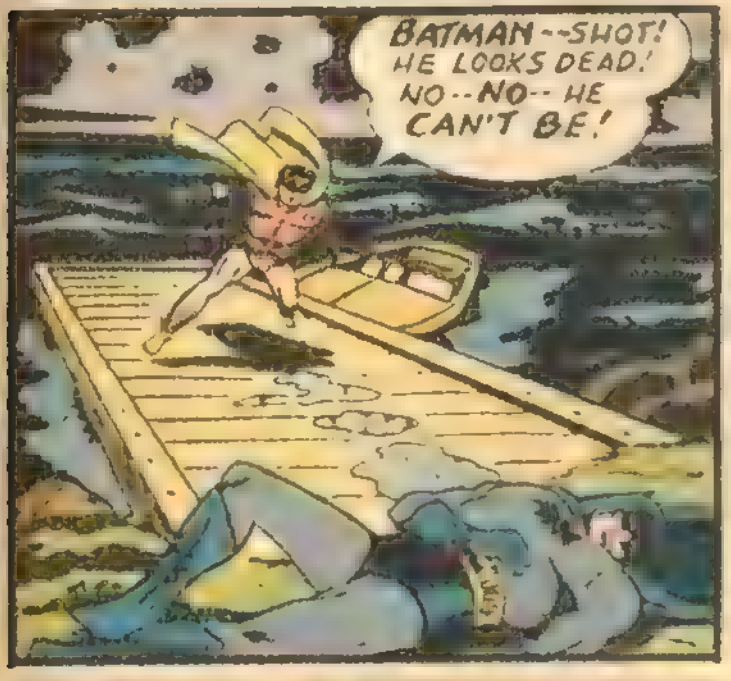

AS THE CROOKS RETURN INSIDE FOR ANOTHER LOAD...
ROBIN, CALLING ROBIN--I'M IN THE TRUNK OF THE BANDITS' CAR! THEY'RE LEAVING SHORTLY! I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN BY BELT-RADIO SO YOU CAN FOLLOW!

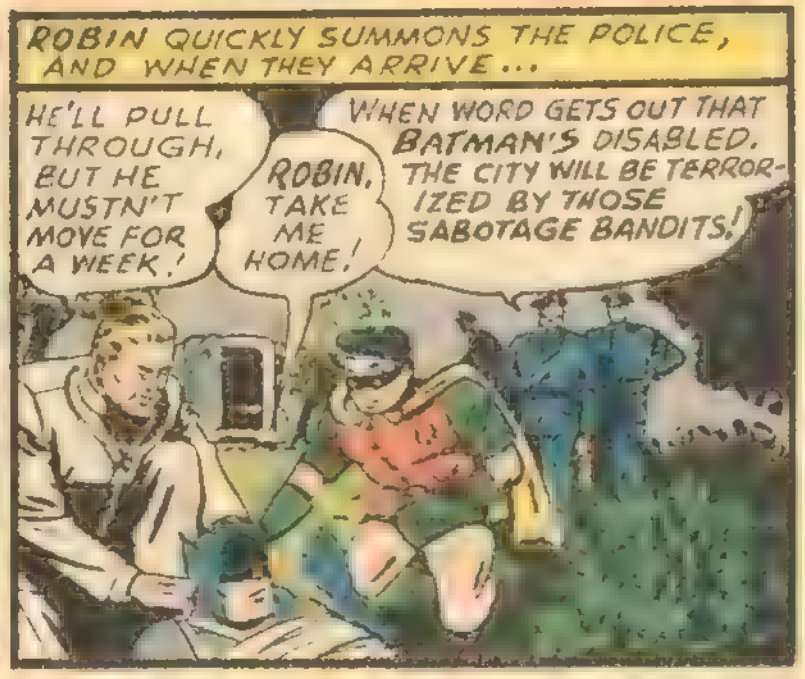

BUT BATMAN HAS LEFT WHAT MAY MEAN A FATAL CLUE, FOR...
FELLERS, SEE THIS WET TRAIL? SOMEONE CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND HAS HIDDEN IN THE TRUNK! GUESS WHO IT IS!

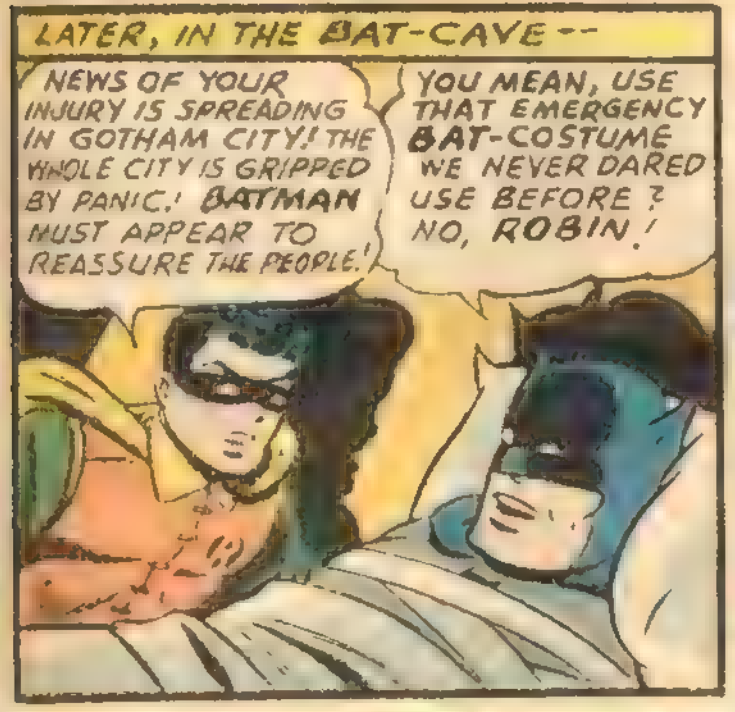
STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN

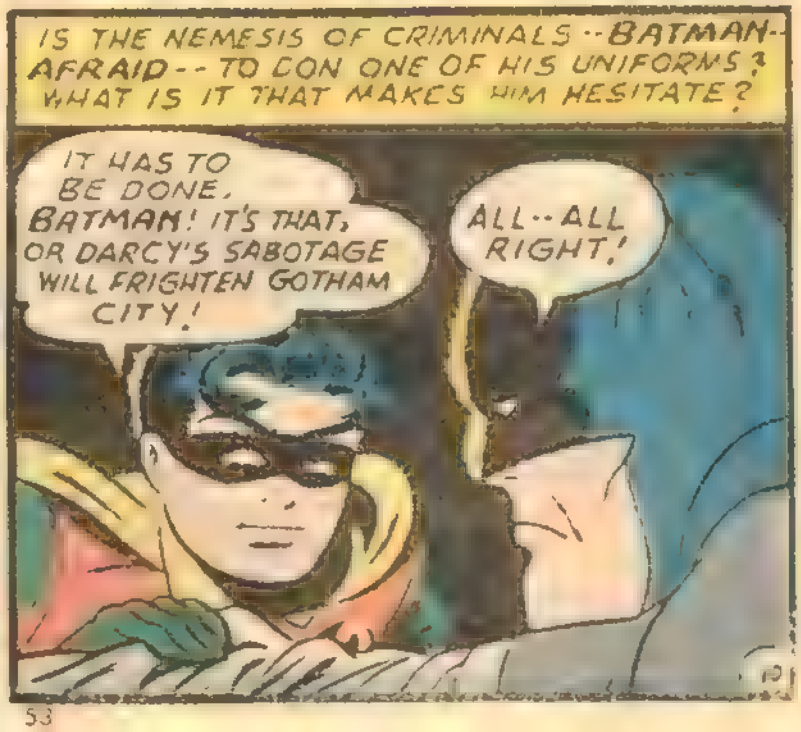


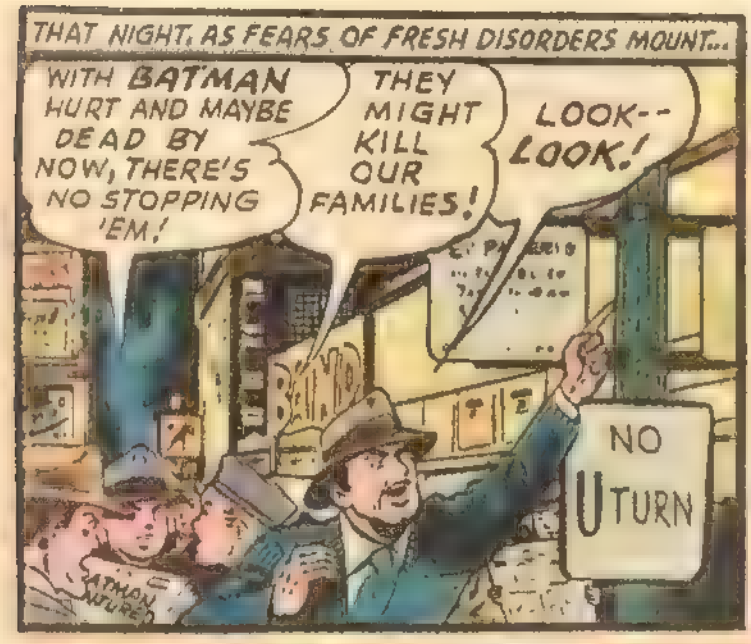




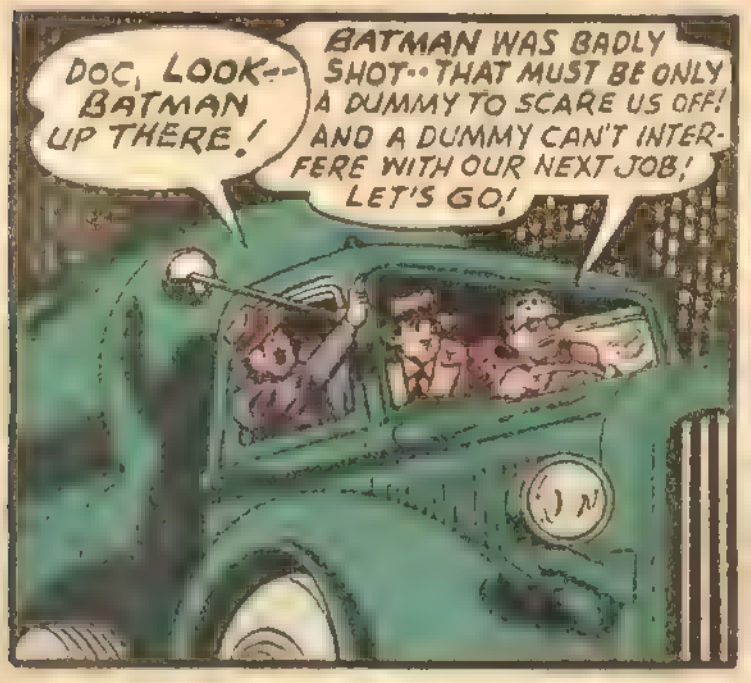

ROBIN QUICKLY SUMMONS THE POLICE, AND WHEN THEY ARRIVE...
HE'LL PULL THROUGH, BUT HE MUSTN'T MOVE FOR A WEEK.'
ROBIN, TAKE ME HOME!
WHEN WORD GETS OUT THAT BATMAN'S DISABLED, THE CITY WILL BE TERRORIZED BY THOSE SABOTAGE BANDITS!

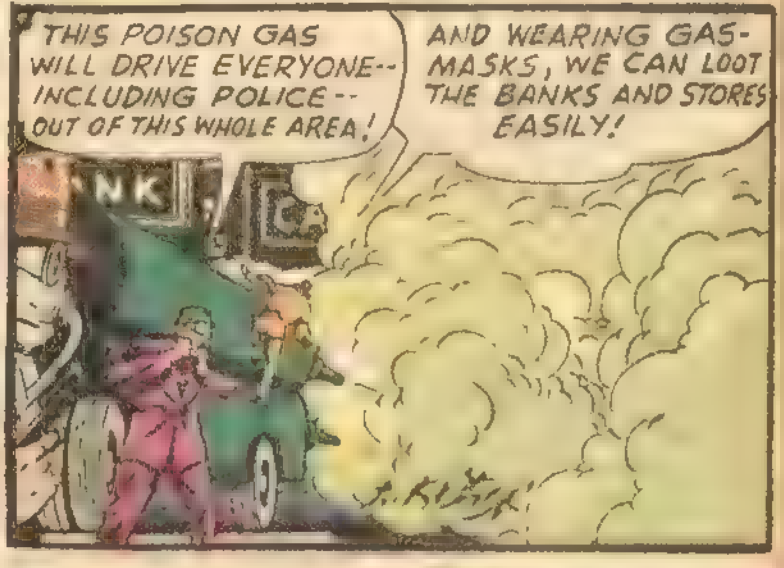

LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE--
NEWS OF YOUR INJURY IS SPREADING IN GOTHAM CITY! THE WHOLE CITY IS GRIPPED BY PANIC! BATMAN MUST APPEAR TO REASSURE THE PEOPLE!
YOU MEAN, USE THAT EMERGENCY BAT-COSTUME WE NEVER DARED USE BEFORE? NO, ROBIN!

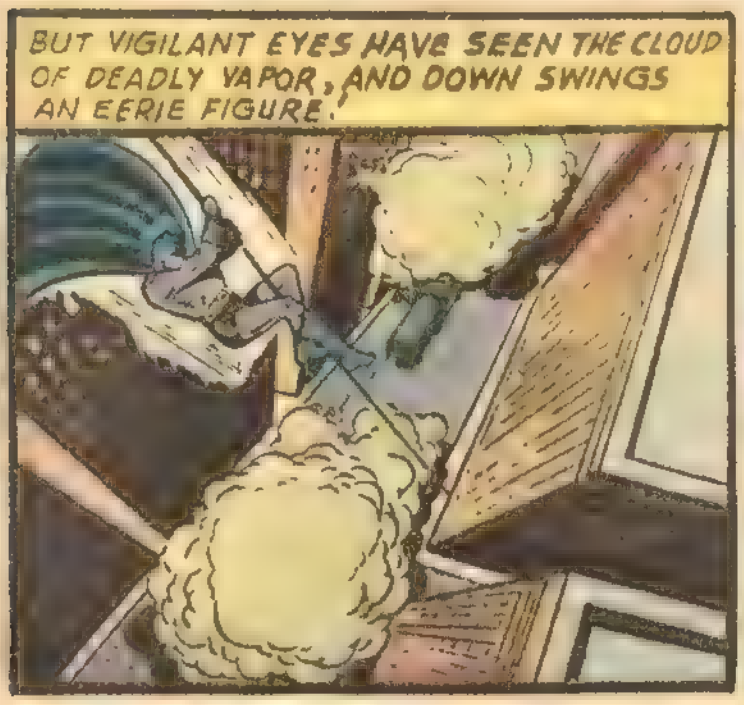

IS THE NEMESIS OF CRIMINALS--BATMAN--AFRAID--TO DON ONE OF HIS UNIFORMS? WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES HIM HESITATE?
IT HAS TO BE DONE, BATMAN! IT'S THAT, OR DARCY'S SABOTAGE WILL FRIGHTEN GOTHAM CITY!
ALL--ALL RIGHT!

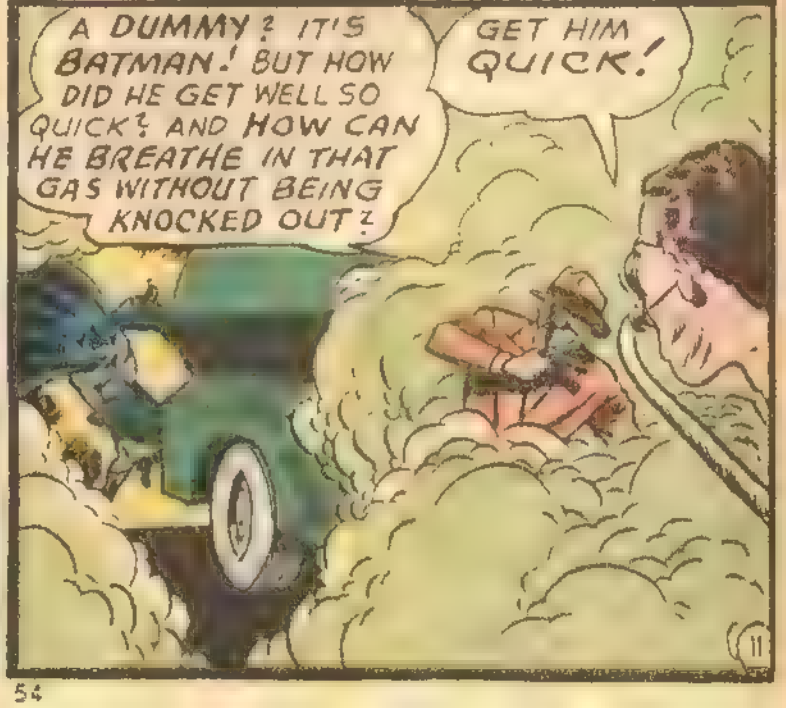

THAT NIGHT, AS FEARS OF FRESH DISORDERS MOUNT...
WITH BATMAN HURT AND MAYBE DEAD BY NOW, THERE'S NO STOPPING 'EM!
THEY MIGHT KILL OUR FAMILIES!
LOOK-- LOOK!
NO U TURN

BATMAN! HE WASN'T SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AFTER ALL!
HE'LL STOP 'EM!

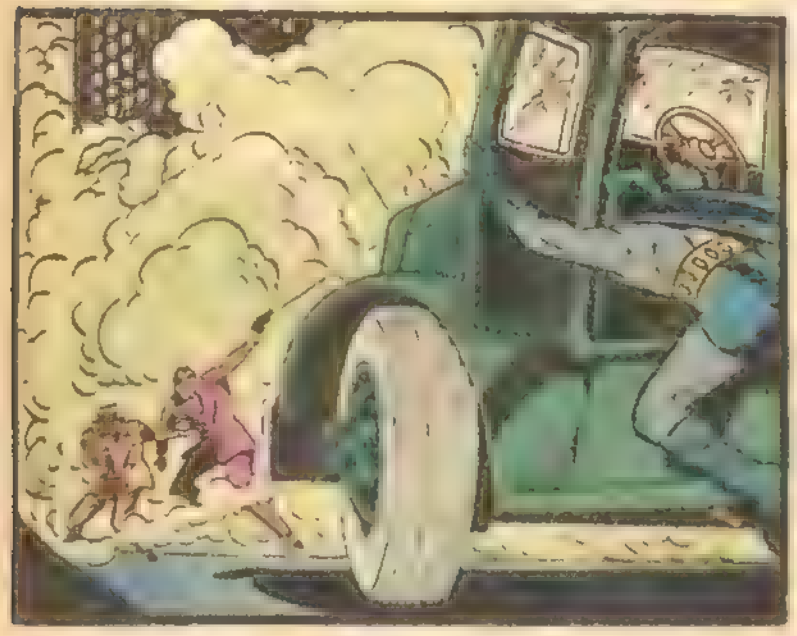

DOC, LOOK-- BATMAN UP THERE!
BATMAN WAS BADLY SHOT--THAT MUST BE ONLY A DUMMY TO SCARE US OFF! AND A DUMMY CAN'T INTERFERE WITH OUR NEXT JOB! LET'S GO!

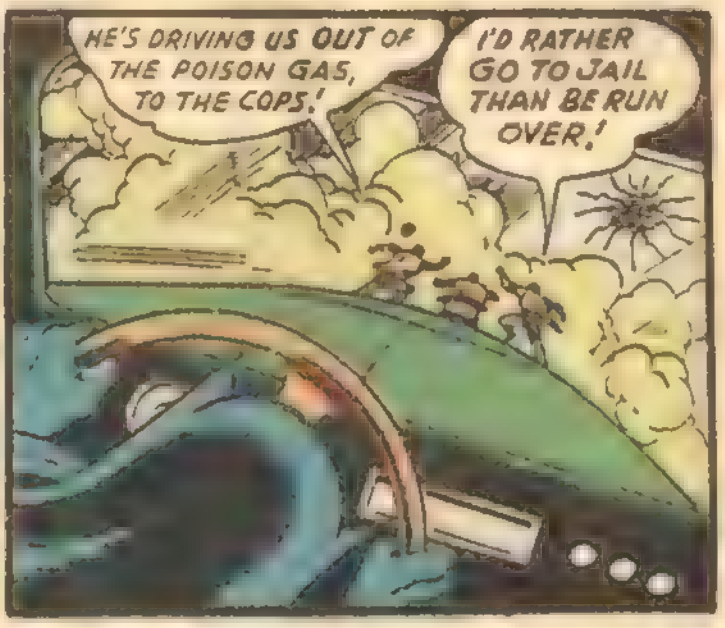

THIS POISON GAS WILL DRIVE EVERYONE-- INCLUDING POLICE -- OUT OF THIS WHOLE AREA!
AND WEARING GAS-MASKS, WE CAN LOOT THE BANKS AND STORES EASILY!

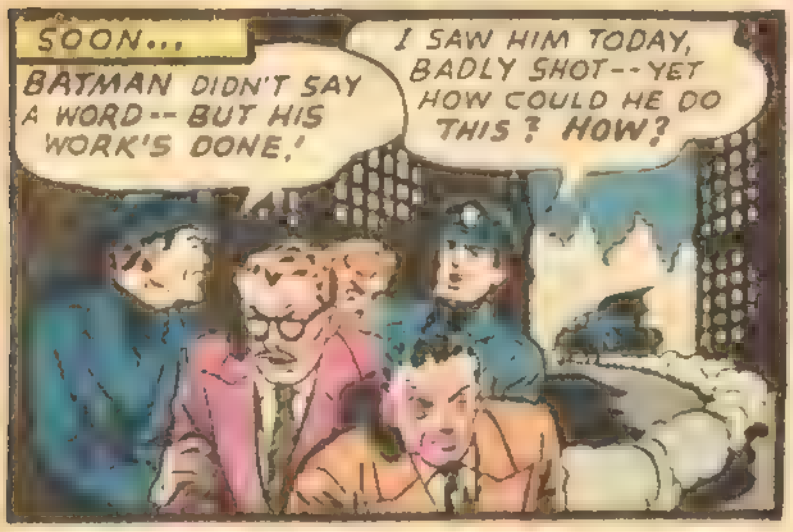

BUT VIGILANT EYES HAVE SEEN THE CLOUD OF DEADLY VAPOR, AND DOWN SWINGS AN EERIE FIGURE!

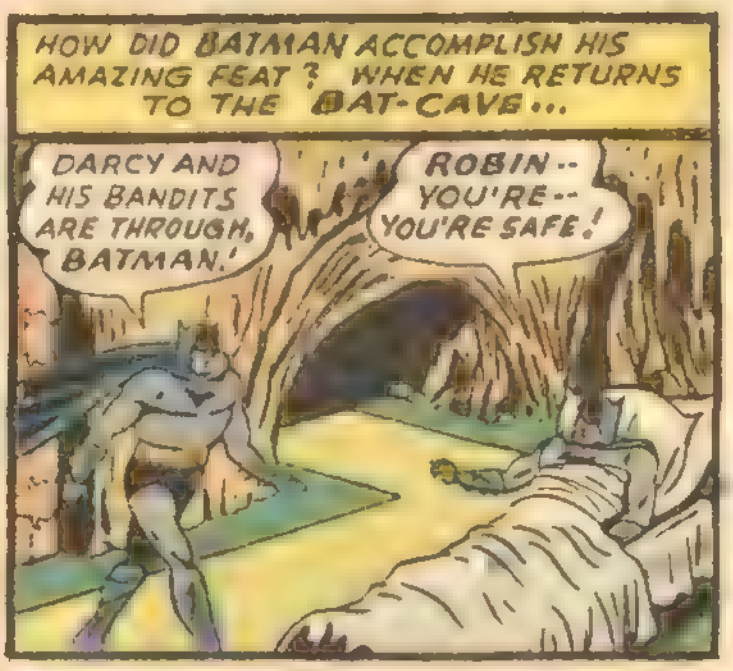

A DUMMY? IT'S BATMAN! BUT HOW DID HE GET WELL SO QUICK? AND HOW CAN HE BREATHE IN THAT GAS WITHOUT BEING KNOCKED OUT?
GET HIM QUICK!

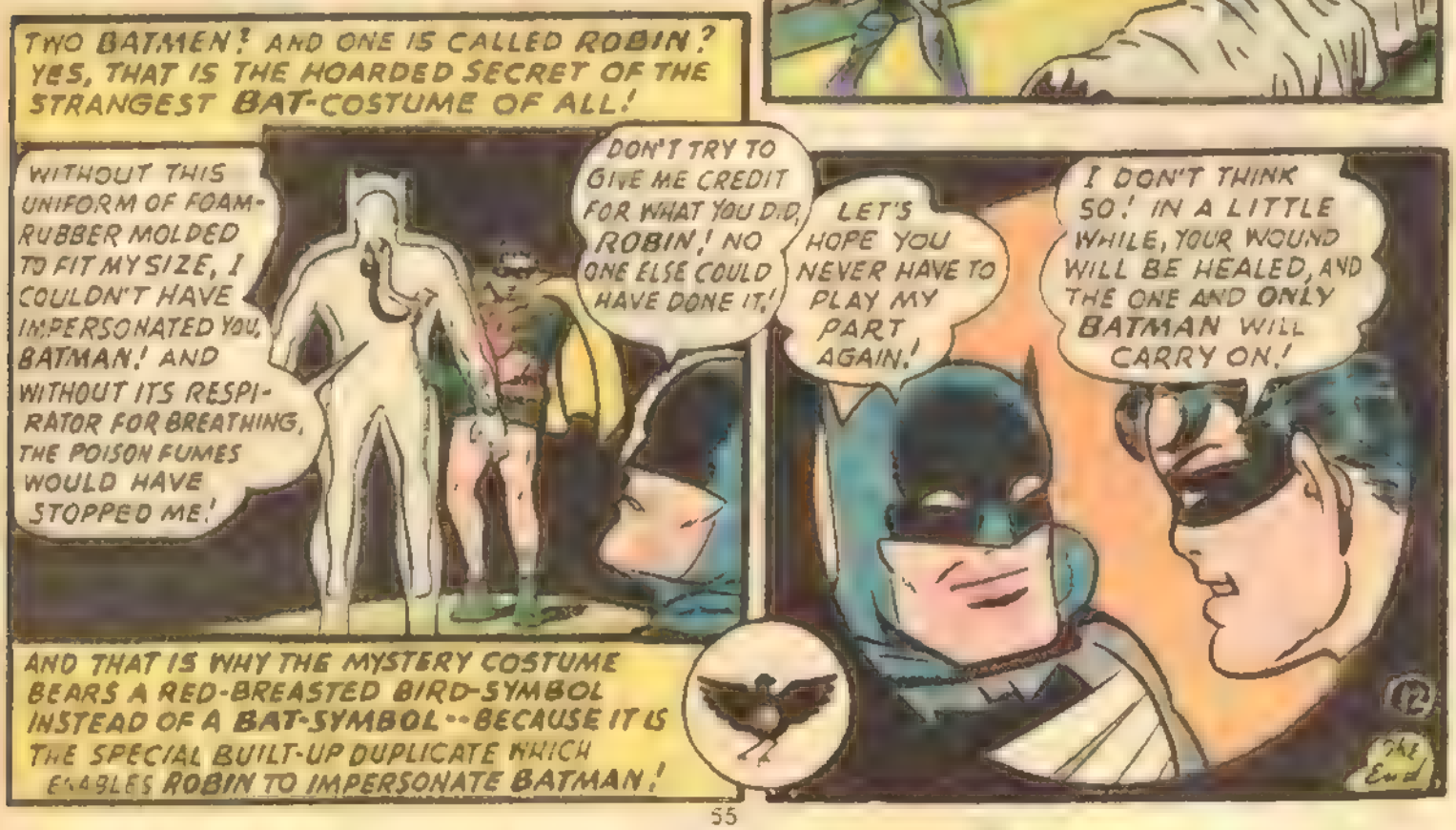
STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN





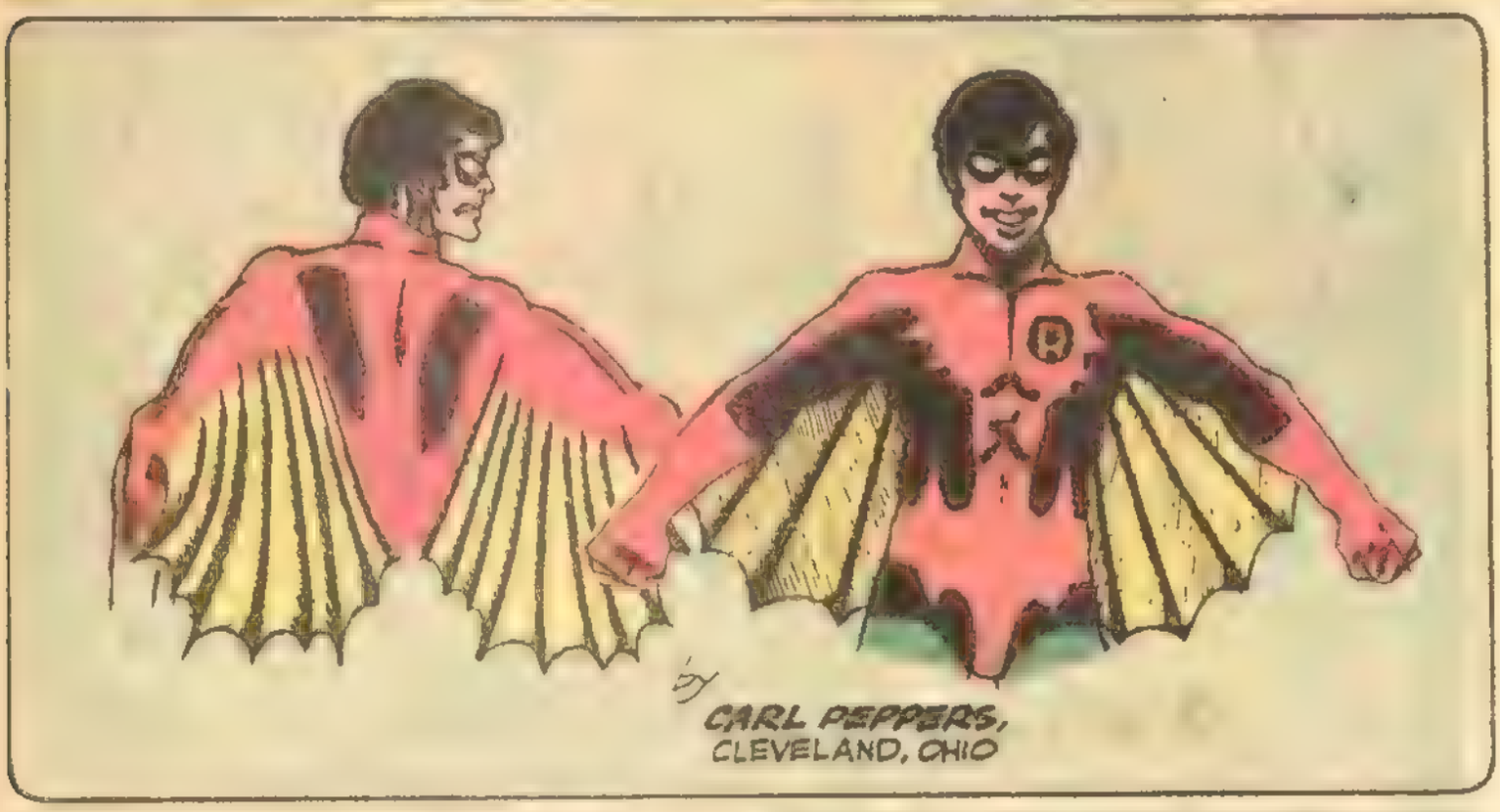



HOW DID BATMAN ACCOMPLISH HIS AMAZING FEAT? WHEN HE RETURNS TO THE BAT-CAVE...
DARCY AND HIS BANDITS ARE THROUGH, BATMAN!
ROBIN -- YOU'RE -- YOU'RE SAFE!


TWO BATMEN! AND ONE IS CALLED ROBIN? YES, THAT IS THE HOARDED SECRET OF THE STRANGEST BAT-COSTUME OF ALL!
WITHOUT THIS UNIFORM OF FOAM-RUBBER MOLDED TO FIT MY SIZE, I COULDN'T HAVE IMPERSONATED YOU, BATMAN! AND WITHOUT ITS RESPIRATOR FOR BREATHING, THE POISON FUMES WOULD HAVE STOPPED ME!
DON'T TRY TO GIVE ME CREDIT FOR WHAT YOU DID, ROBIN! NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE DONE IT!
LET'S HOPE YOU NEVER HAVE TO PLAY MY PART AGAIN!
I DON'T THINK SO! IN A LITTLE WHILE, YOUR WOUND WILL BE HEALED, AND THE ONE AND ONLY BATMAN WILL CARRY ON!
AND THAT IS WHY THE MYSTERY COSTUME BEARS A RED-BREASTED BIRD-SYMBOL INSTEAD OF A BAT-SYMBOL -- BECAUSE IT IS THE SPECIAL BUILT-UP DUPLICATE WHICH ENABLES ROBIN TO IMPERSONATE BATMAN!
12
THE End

HI, THERE! FROM TIME TO TIME, READERS HAVE WRITTEN IN SUGGESTING MY "BOY WONDER" UNIFORM BE UPDATED TO GIVE ME A MODERN "TEEN-AGE" IMAGE! IN FACT, SOME HAVE DESIGNED THEIR OWN CONCEPTS FOR COSTUMES!
HERE ARE A FEW SAMPLES...
by CAROL A. STRICKLAND, CHAPEL HILL, N.C.
by BRIAN MADIGAN, GENEVA, N.Y.
by ANTHONY KOWALIK, HARVEY, ILL.
by STEVEN DIAZ, N. MIAMI, FLA.

A NEW LOOK FOR ROBIN



by CARL PEPPERS, CLEVELAND, OHIO

by DAVID TALARICO, LIVERPOOL, N.Y.

by JIM RICKLEF, WHITTIER, CALIF.

REMEMBER THE TWO PRIVATE DETECTIVES... HAWKE AND WRENN... WHO TRIED TO IMITATE US?
HA, HA! I STILL LAUGH WHEN I THINK OF "ROBIN" WITH A BALD SPOT! STILL, THEY WERE GOOD DETECTIVES!
BAT MAN
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -
WHAT'S THIS? DO WE SEE THOSE BOLDEST OF ALL BATTLERS, THE MIGHTY BATMAN AND THE RECKLESS ROBIN, FROM [illegible] SHAMEFUL FLIGHT, AH, NO — FOR IF YOU LOOK AGAIN, YOU WILL SEE TWO TEAMS OF CAPED FIGURES ONE SPURIOUS AND ONE GENUINE — AND THEREBY HANGS A TALE ... NORTH REMEMBERING! ... FOR CLOTHES CAN MAKE A SCARECROW— BUT IT TAKES STEELY NERVE, SUPPLE STRENGTH AND UNFLAGGING COURAGE TO SEND THE DYNAMIC DUO CHARGING TO THE RESCUE OF A WELL-MEANING BUT MISGUIDED PAIR WHO WANTED TO BECOME— "HEROES by PROXY!"
ART: DICK SPRANG
1945 by DETECTIVE COMICS, INC.
RENEWED 1973 by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.

HEROES BY PROXY

BEHIND THIS DOOR LURKS TRAGEDY!
HAWKE & WRENN
DETECTIVE AGENCY
CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATIONS
IT'S NO USE, HAWKE... THE MORE I FIGURE, THE MORE OBVIOUS IT BECOMES THAT WE'RE FLAT BROKE!
AH, ME-AND ME BUT SUCH LOFTY PLANS!
HOW COULD WE FAIL, WRENN? WE HAVE BRAINS COURAGE, A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF CRIMINAL METHODS...
BUT WE LACK A REPUTATION- THE FIRST REQUIREMENT FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS!
AS HAWKE AND WRENN WE'RE MERELY TWO BIRDS OF ILL OMEN! BUT IF WE WERE, SAY, BATMAN AND ROBIN, RICHES WOULD RAIN DOWN UPON US!
EUREKA- I HAVE IT!
SNAP!
TEAR UP YOUR SILLY FIGURES! CLEAR THE SAFE FOR CASH! FROM NOW ON, WE'RE GOING TO FLY HIGH!
MY POOR FRIEND! DISAPPOINTMENT HAS UNBALANCED YOU!
SAD, ISN'T IT? AND SADDER STILL IS THIS SHAMEFUL SPECTACLE OF STEALTHY CRIME BY NIGHT!
HEY! DA LOCK'S BUSTED!
IN YA GO DEN CORKY!
YET NOT SO STEALTHY, EITHER!
YA CLUMSY GOOF- IT'S A GOOD T'ING NOBODY'S HOME!
I LIKE TA BREAK ME NECK, AN' DAT'S ALL DA SYMPATHY I GET!
2

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Joe Weider trainer of "Mr. Ame

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Tony Golio Bronx, N.Y. Loses 30 lbs of flab!

BEFORE

AFTER

Danny Wilson, Greer, S.C. puts 6" on his arms and 7" on his chest

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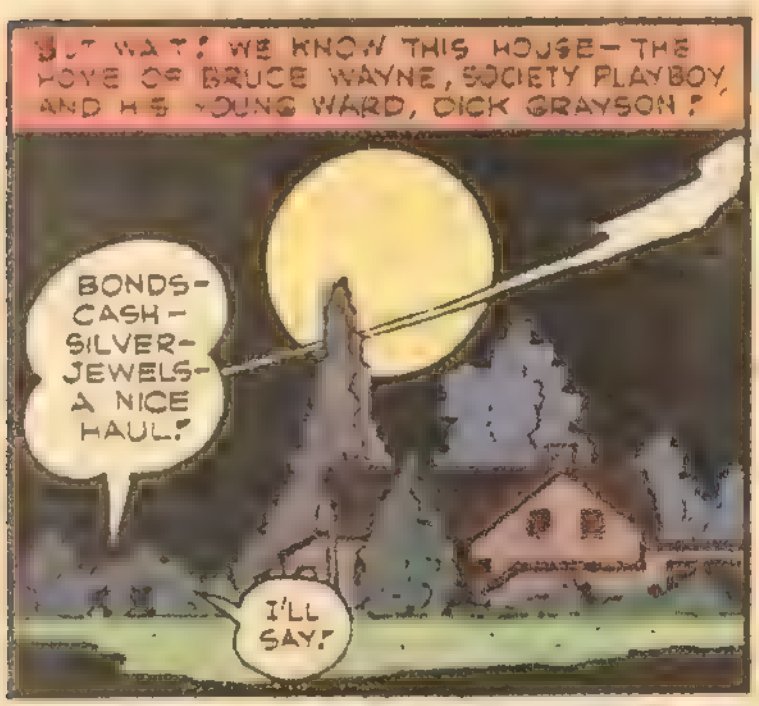
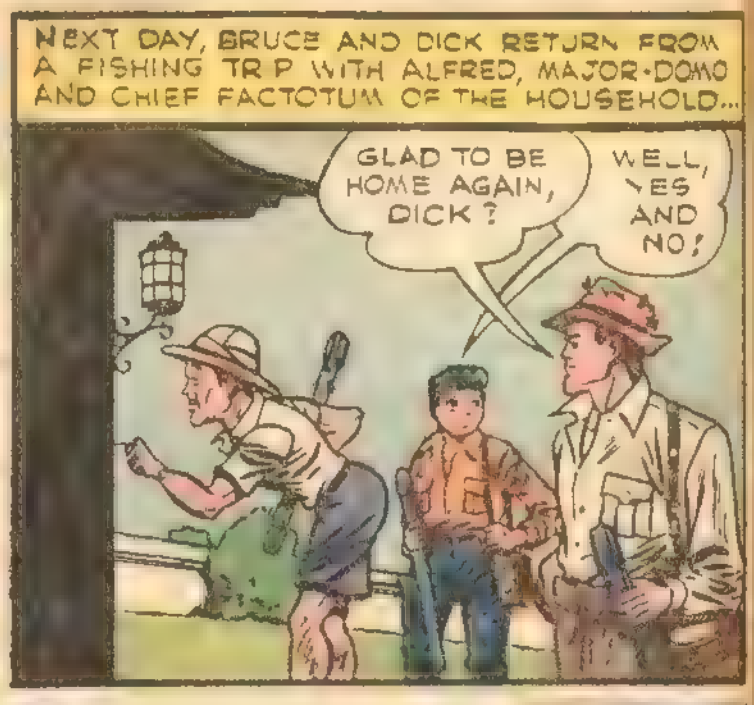
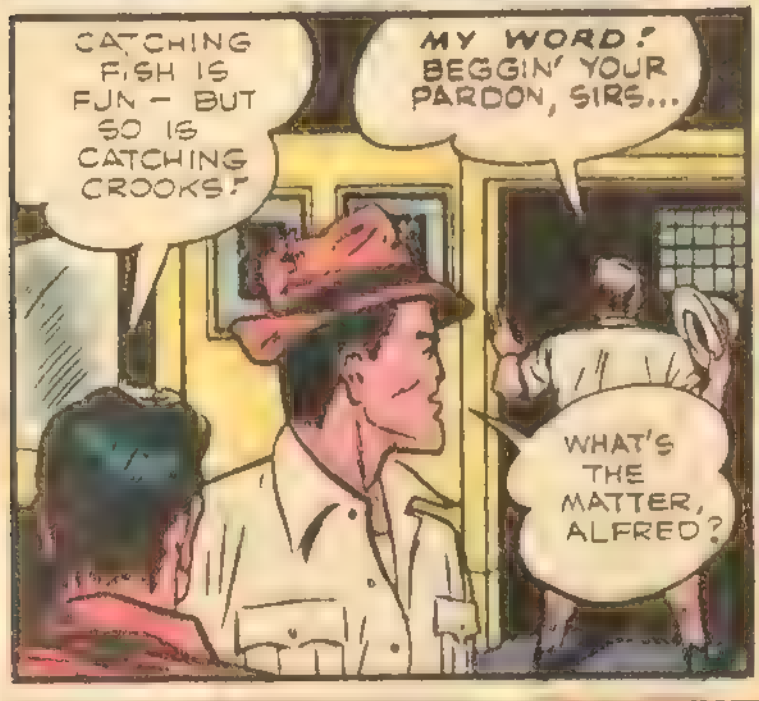
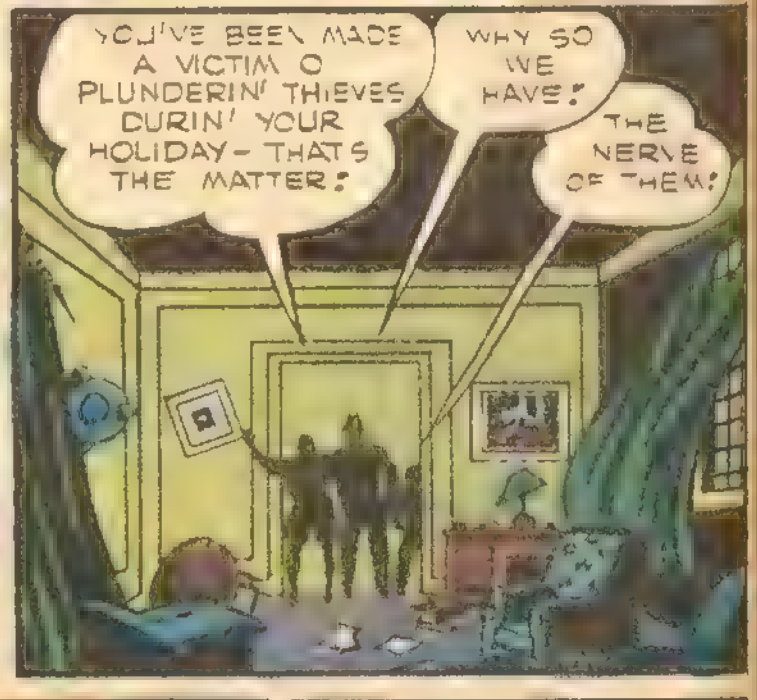
City

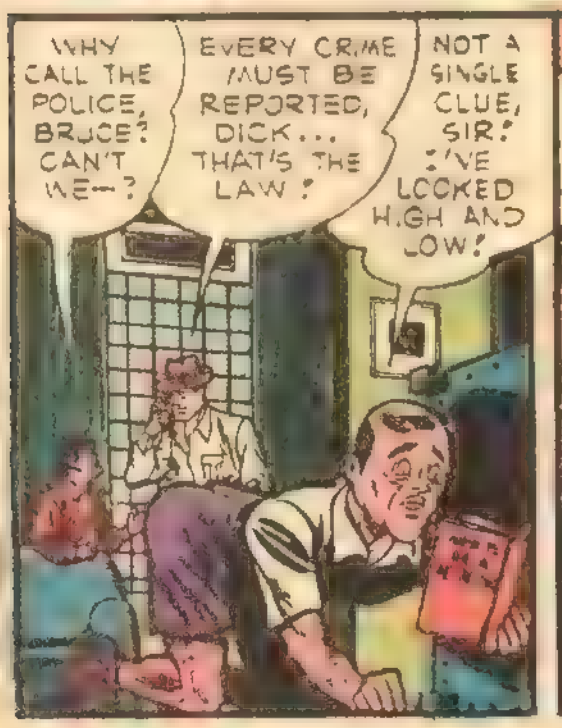
State Zip


BUT WAIT! WE KNOW THIS HOUSE—THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON!
BONDS—CASH—SILVER—JEWELS—A NICE HAUL!
I'LL SAY!


NEXT DAY, BRUCE AND DICK RETURN FROM A FISHING TRIP WITH ALFRED, MAJOR-DOMO AND CHIEF FACTOTUM OF THE HOUSEHOLD...
GLAD TO BE HOME AGAIN, DICK?
WELL, YES AND NO!


CATCHING FISH IS FUN — BUT SO IS CATCHING CROOKS!
MY WORD! BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON, SIRS...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ALFRED?


YOU'VE BEEN MADE A VICTIM O PLUNDERIN' THIEVES DURIN' YOUR HOLIDAY — THAT'S THE MATTER!
WHY SO WE HAVE!
THE NERVE OF THEM!

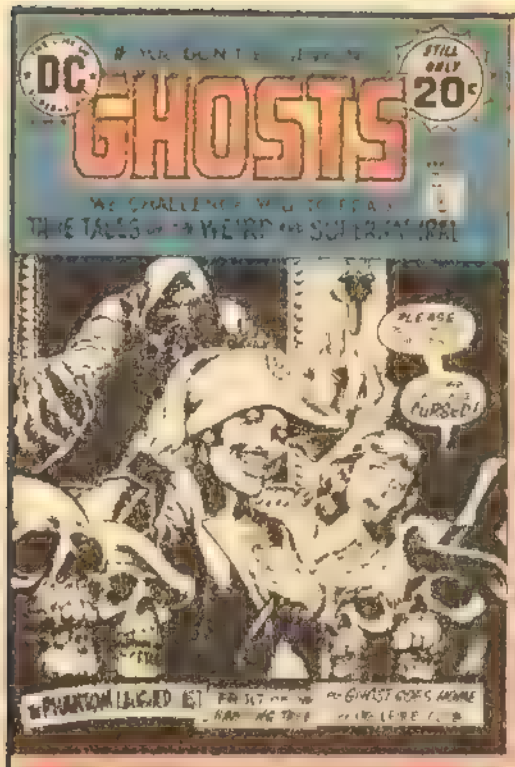

WHY CALL THE POLICE, BRUCE? CAN'T WE—?
EVERY CRIME MUST BE REPORTED, DICK... THAT'S THE LAW!
NOT A SINGLE CLUE, SIR! I'VE LOOKED HIGH AND LOW!

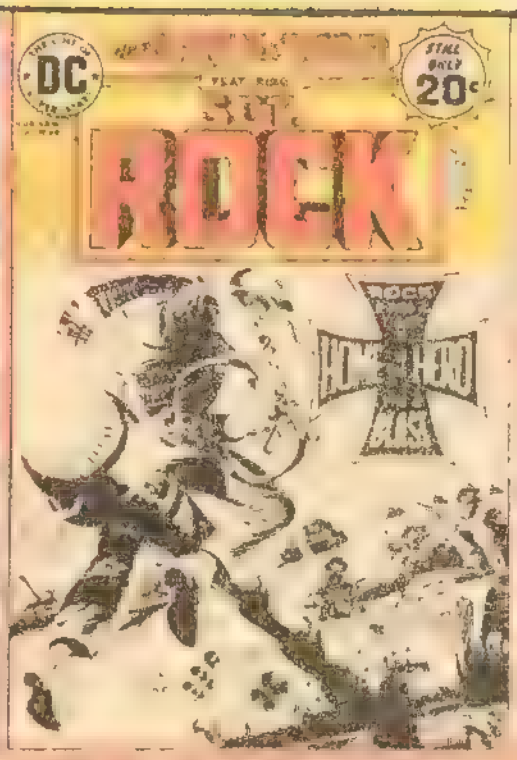
THAT EVENING...
HAVE YOU SEEN THE HEADLINES SIR?.. I CAWN'T HELP SMILIN'!
WHAT'S SO HUMOROUS?
GOTHAM CITY GAZETTE
THIEVES LOOT HOME OF RICH SOCIALITE

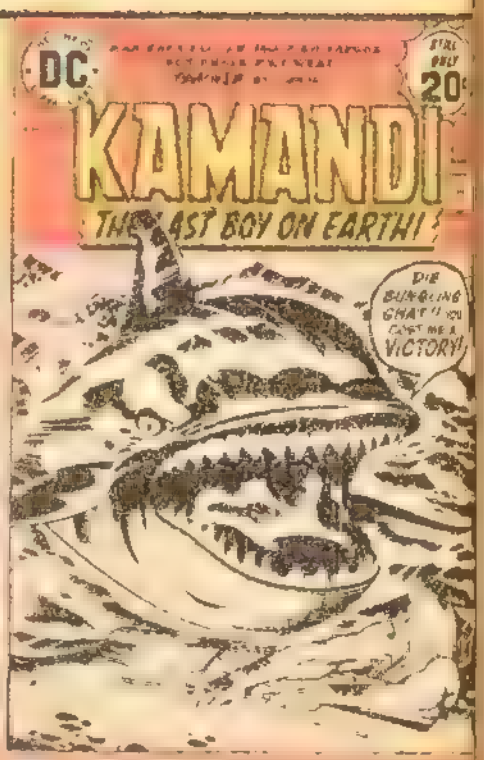
I WAS WONDERIN HOW THE RASCALS WOULD FEEL IF THEY KNEW THIS WAS ALSO THE RESIDENCE O THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
IT IS FUNNY AT THAT!
3

HEROES BY PROXY

ABRUPTLY...
BRUCE— LOOK!
HUH?..
NO! IT CAWN'T BE!
CRASH!
WELL, GENTLE READER— WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?
"ROBIN," WHATEVER ARE YOU DOING?
BITING MY TONGUE, MY DEAR "BATMAN" TO KEEP FROM SAYING WHAT I'M THINKING!
WHA-?
MY GOODMAN, EVERYONE KNOWS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MOVE ABOUT IN UNUSUAL WAYS—LIKE THIS!
LOOK OUT!
THE MANSTER'S PRICELESS DAMANSK DRAPES!
SHOULD I GET MAD BRUCE— OR LAUGH LIKE I WANT TO?
LEAVE THEM TO ME!
OWOO!!
WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE SUCH DISTINGUISHED CALLERS— BUT WHAT'S THE REASON?
SHALL I TELL HIM, "BATMAN?"
NO, "ROBIN"— WOUNDED AS I AM, I'LL DO THE TALKING!
YOU, MR. WAYNE, HAVE BEEN ROBBED! WE PROPOSE TO CATCH THE THIEVES AND RESTORE YOUR PURLOINED VALUABLES!
GENEROUS OF YOU, I'M SURE!
NOT SO! WE SHALL EXPECT A REWARD IF WE SUCCEED IN OUR ENDEAVOR!
BUT THE BATMAN AND ROBIN NEVER ACCEPT REWARDS!
ARE YOU PRESUMING TO TE— US?
4







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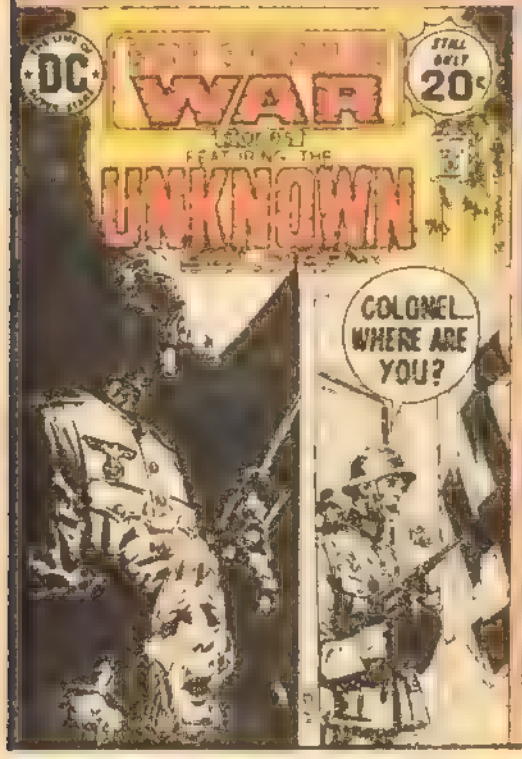

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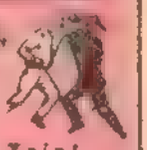

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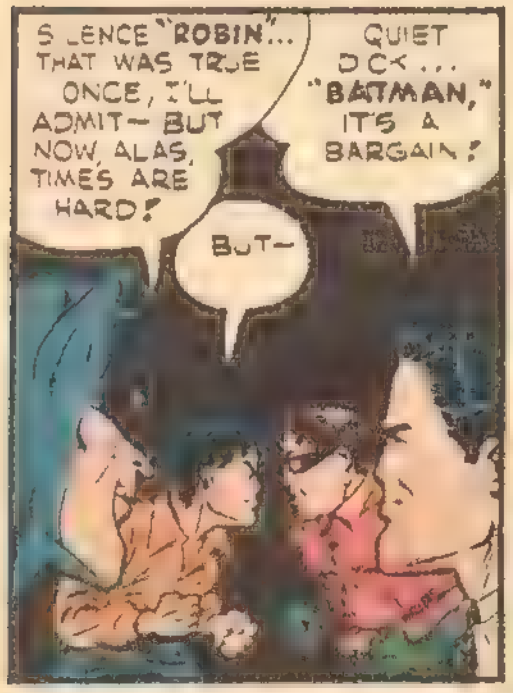
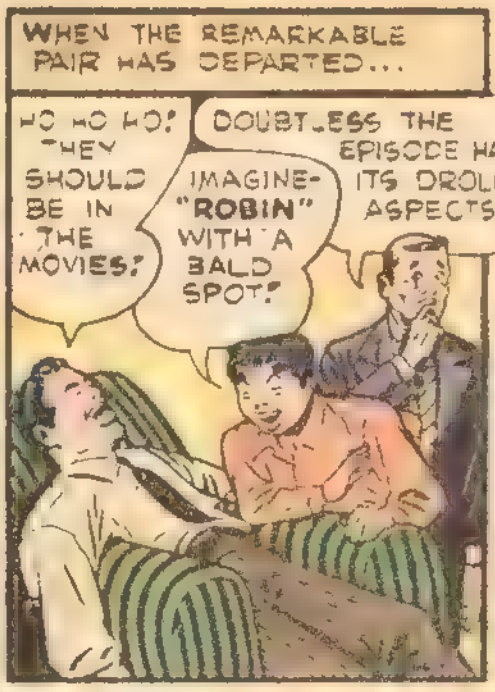
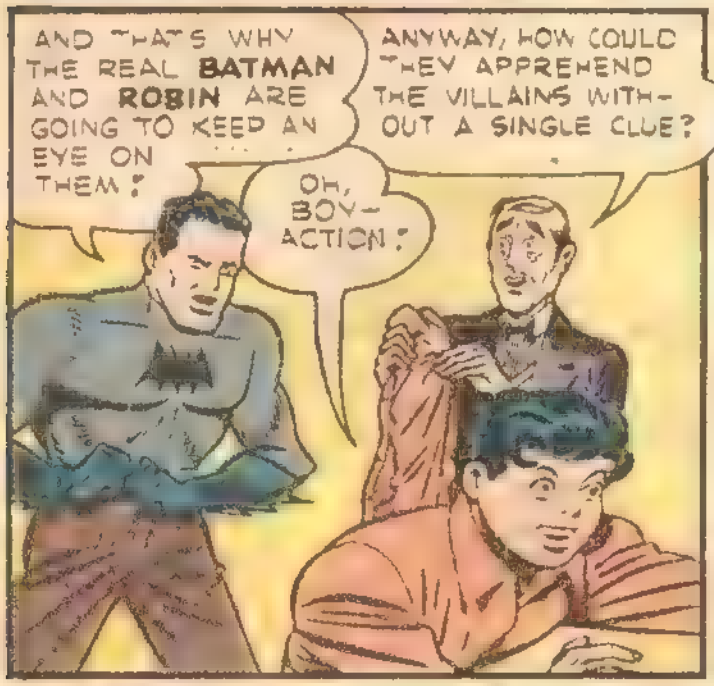
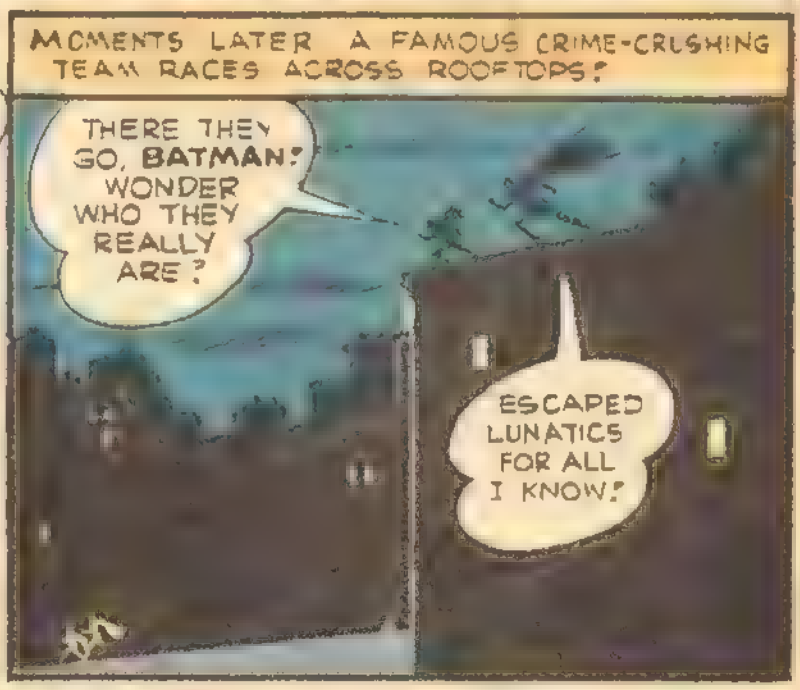
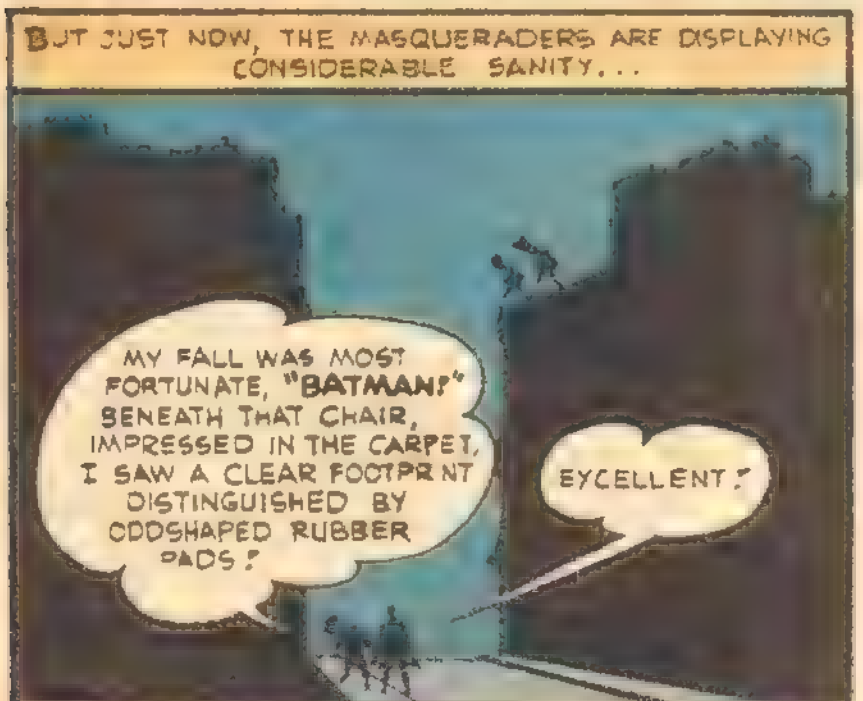

SILENCE "ROBIN"... THAT WAS TRUE ONCE, I'LL ADMIT— BUT NOW, ALAS, TIMES ARE HARD!
QUIET DICK... "BATMAN," IT'S A BARGAIN!
BUT—


WHEN THE REMARKABLE PAIR HAS DEPARTED...
HO HO HO! THEY SHOULD BE IN THE MOVIES!
IMAGINE— "ROBIN" WITH A BALD SPOT!
DOUBTLESS THE EPISODE HAS ITS DROLL ASPECTS

BUT WHAT OF YOUR REPUTATION? FOR ALL WE KNOW THEY MAY HAVE DONE THE BURGLING THEMSELVES!
I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!
I DID...


AND THAT'S WHY THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GOING TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM!
ANYWAY, HOW COULD THEY APPREHEND THE VILLAINS WITHOUT A SINGLE CLUE?
OH, BOY— ACTION!


MOMENTS LATER A FAMOUS CRIME-CRUSHING TEAM RACES ACROSS ROOFTOPS!
THERE THEY GO, BATMAN! WONDER WHO THEY REALLY ARE?
ESCAPED LUNATICS FOR ALL I KNOW!

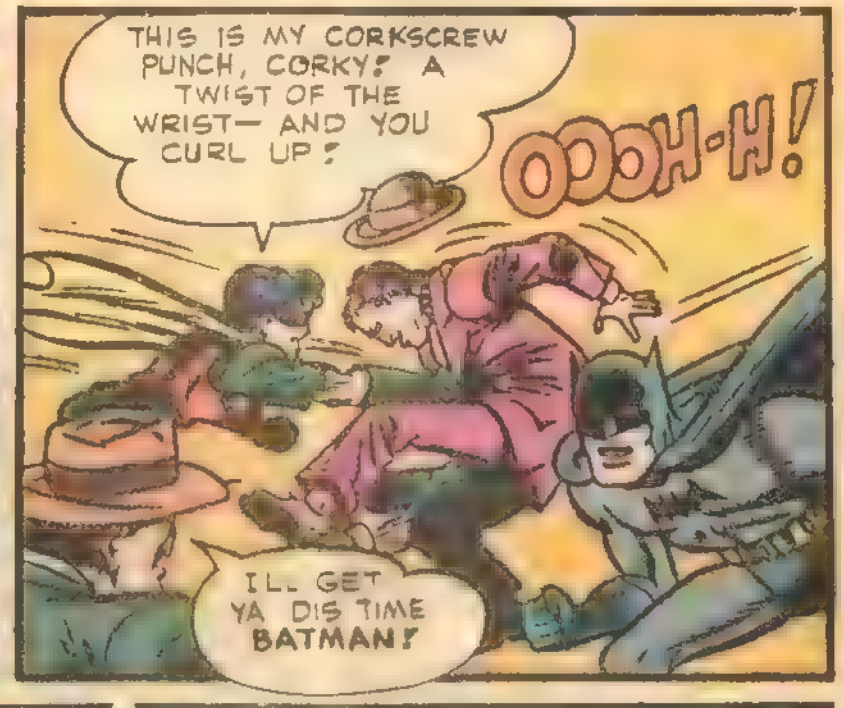

BUT JUST NOW, THE MASQUERADERS ARE DISPLAYING CONSIDERABLE SANITY...
MY FALL WAS MOST FORTUNATE, "BATMAN!" BENEATH THAT CHAIR, IMPRESSED IN THE CARPET, I SAW A CLEAR FOOTPRINT DISTINGUISHED BY ODDSHAPED RUBBER PADS!
EXCELLENT!

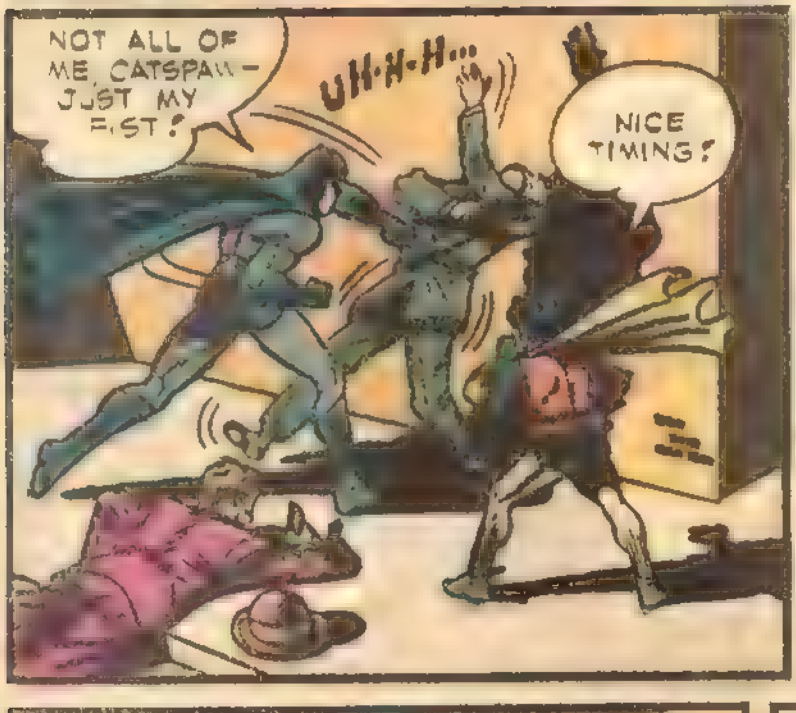
I ALSO HAVE A CLUE— THIS GOLD CORKSCREW WATCH-CHARM, ON WHICH I SAT SO PAINFULLY! UNDOUBTEDLY, IT WAS DROPPED BY A BURGLAR WE BOTH KNOW!
5

HEROES BY PROXY

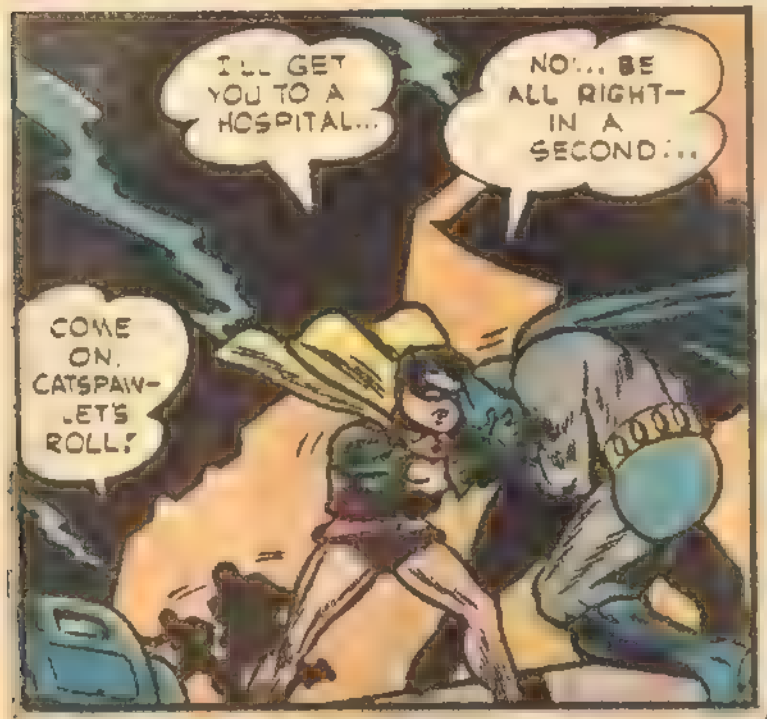
AND HERE ARE TWO WHO HAVE FOUND PROSPERITY, JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
WEASELS A CROOK— ONLY GIVIN' US FIVE GRAND FOR DA WAYNE SWAG!
OH WELL— WE GOT ANOTHER FIVE GRAND CASH OUTA DA JOB!
JEWELS & GOLD BOUGHT & SOLD
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT LOSIN' DAT CORKSCREW, CATSPAW! EVERYBODY KNOWS I ALLWAYS WEAR IT FOR LUCK!
MAYBE YA LOST IT SOME-PLACE ELSE, WHERE IT WON'T MATTER!
FATE BRINGS ABOUT A MEETING...
CORKY— DO YA SEE WHAT I SEE?
DA BATMAN AN ROBIN! DEY'RE AFTER US! BUT DEY'LL NEVER TAKE ME BACK TA DA BIG HOUSE!
SEES "ROBIN", CORKY HUGS ME AND CATSPAW, CARLIN ARE THE MEN WE WANT!
AND WE'LL GET THEM "BATMAN," IF IT TAKES A LIFETIME!
OH, YEAH? YOUR LIFETIME'S LIABLE TA BE AWFUL SHORT!
OH, MY GOODNESS!
YA T'INK YA'RE TOUGH— BUT I GOT BULLETS DAT'S TOUGHER!
COME "ROBIN"— LET US WITHDRAW TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION!
A SPLENDID SUGGESTION "BATMAN!"
TAKE DAT! AN' DAT!
HERE WE GO, ROBIN!
HAW, HAW! DID YA SEE EM' RUN!
WON'T DA BOYS IN PETE'S POOLROOM HOWL WHEN WE TELL HOW YELLA DA BATMAN AN' ROBIN IS!
6

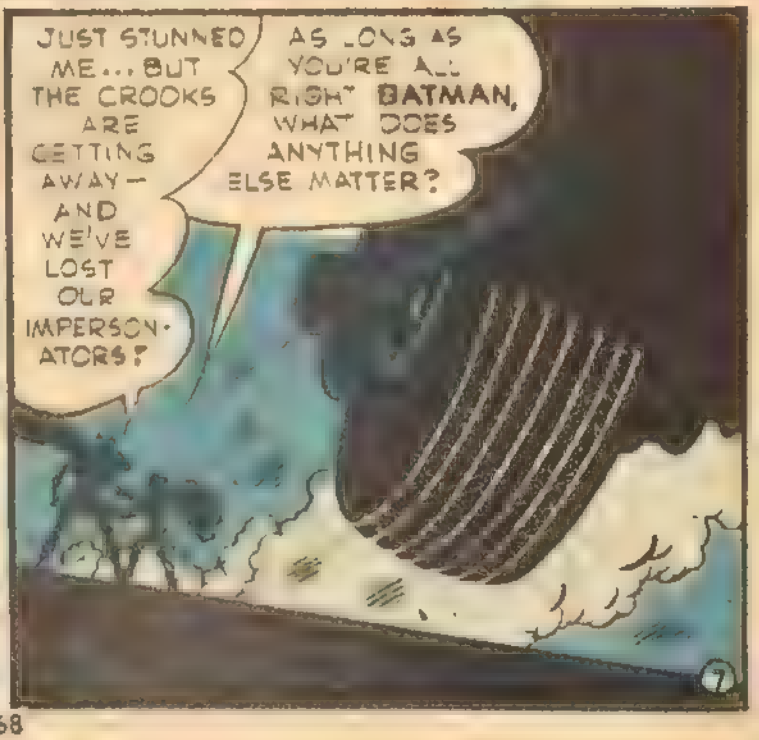
THE NEXT INSTANT...
SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU COYOTES WILL HOWL FIRST!
YIIIII! DEY'RE BACK!
DEY SNUCK UP ON US!


THIS IS MY CORKSCREW PUNCH, CORKY! A TWIST OF THE WRIST— AND YOU CURL UP!
OOOH-H!
I'LL GET YA DIS TIME BATMAN!

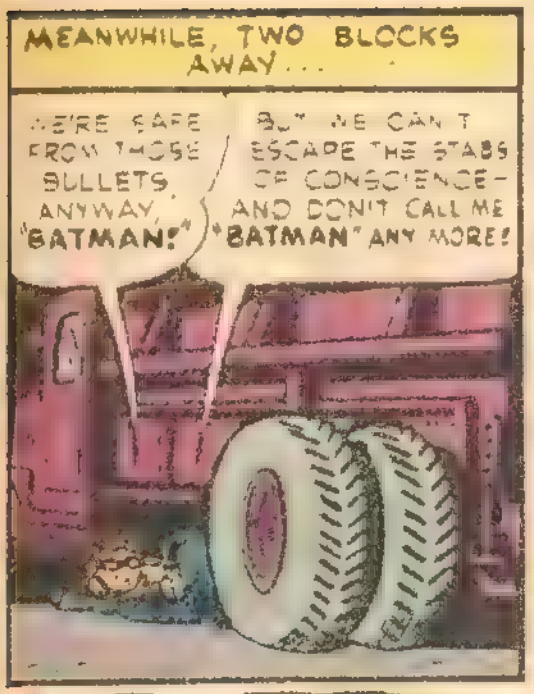

NOT ALL OF ME, CATSPAW— JUST MY FIST!
UH-H-H...
NICE TIMING!

A TREACHEROUS SHOT RINGS OUT...
DAT LL LOW YA!
AAA-AA-AA...
BATMAN! HE GOT YOU!

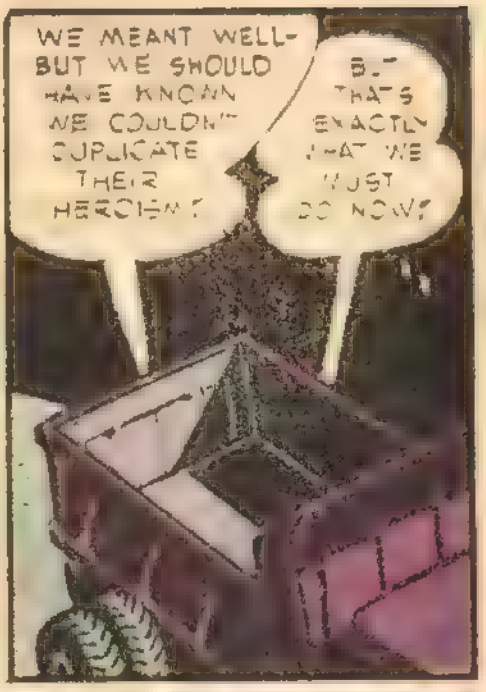

I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL...
NO!... BE ALL RIGHT— IN A SECOND!...
COME ON, CATSPAW— LET'S ROLL!

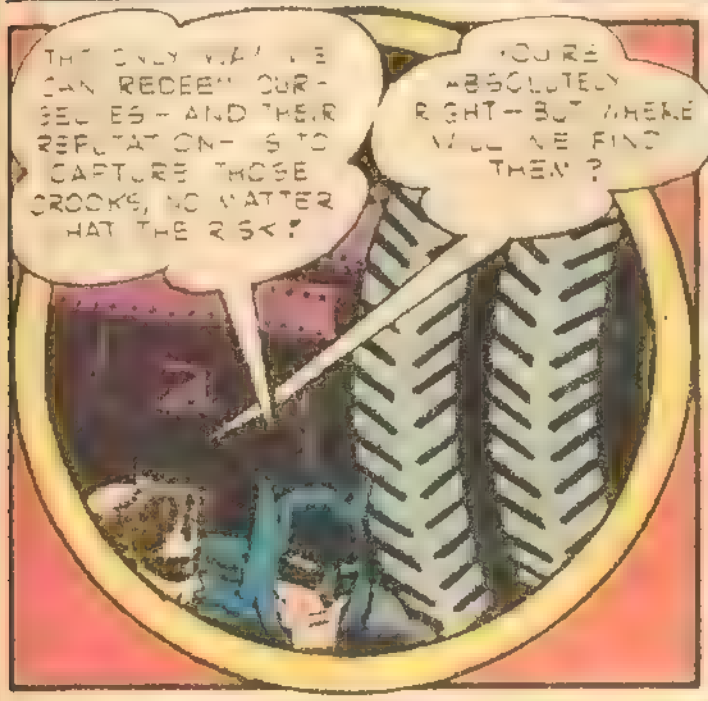

JUST STUNNED ME... BUT THE CROOKS ARE GETTING AWAY— AND WE'VE LOST OUR IMPERSONATORS!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT BATMAN, WHAT DOES ANYTHING ELSE MATTER?
7

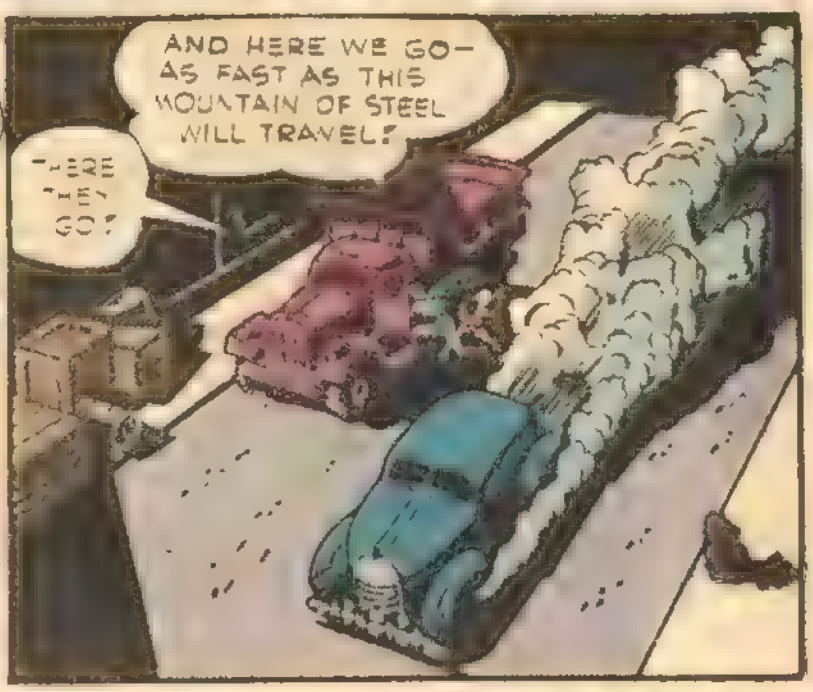
HEROES BY PROXY

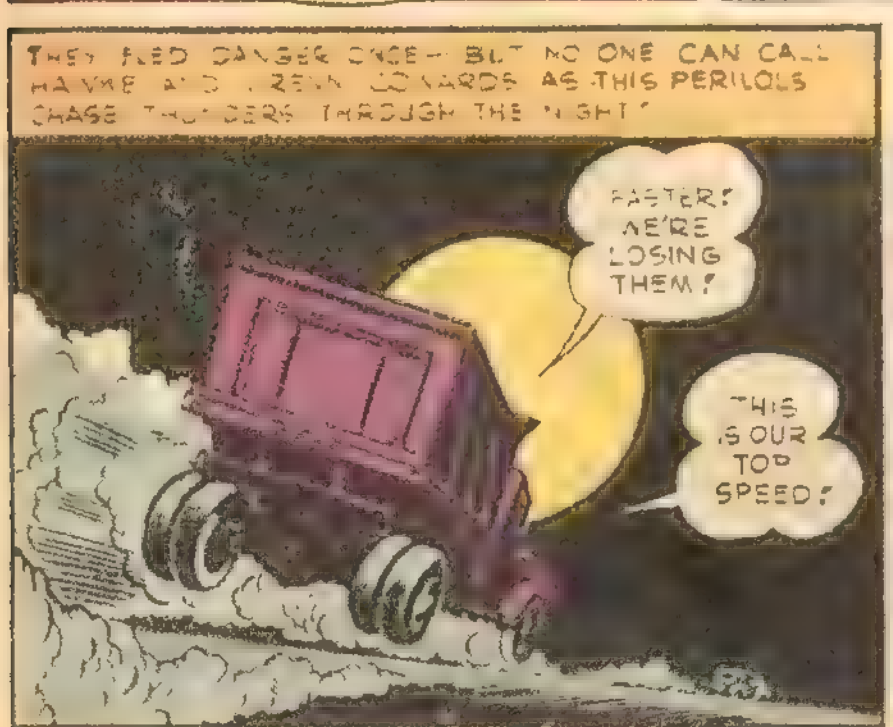

MEANWHILE, TWO BLOCKS AWAY...
WE'RE SAFE FROM THOSE BULLETS, ANYWAY, "BATMAN!"
BUT WE CAN'T ESCAPE THE STABS OF CONSCIENCE— AND DON'T CALL ME "BATMAN" ANY MORE!

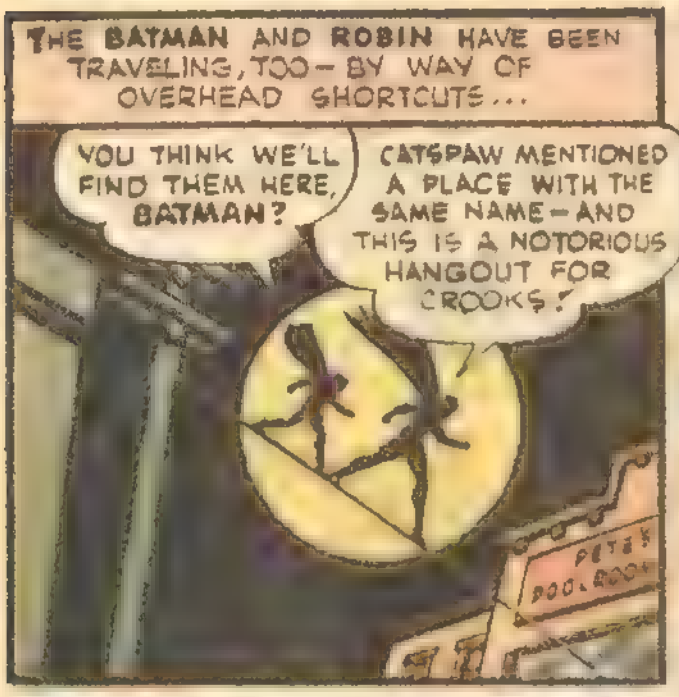
WE'VE DISGRACED THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN! TOMORROW THE UNDERWORLD WILL BUZZ WITH THE STORY OF HOW THEY RAN FROM CRIMINALS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES!
I KNOW...

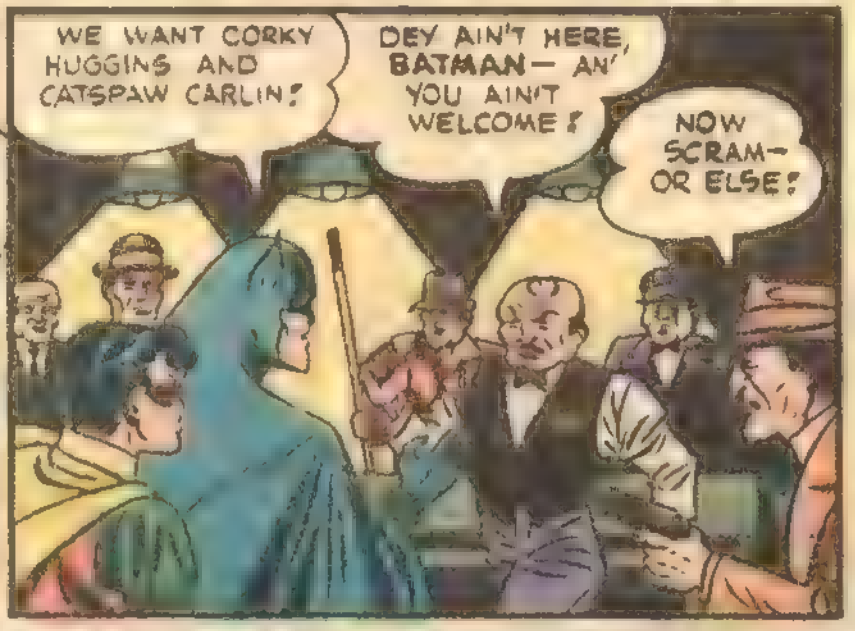


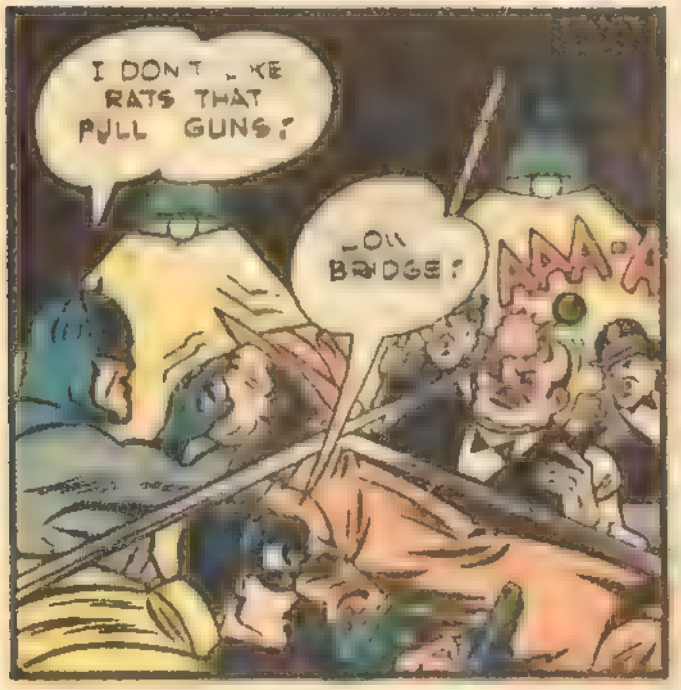

THE ONLY WAY WE CAN REDEEM OURSELVES— AND THEIR REPUTATIONS— IS TO CAPTURE THOSE CROOKS, NO MATTER WHAT THE RISK!
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT— BUT WHERE WILL WE FIND THEM?

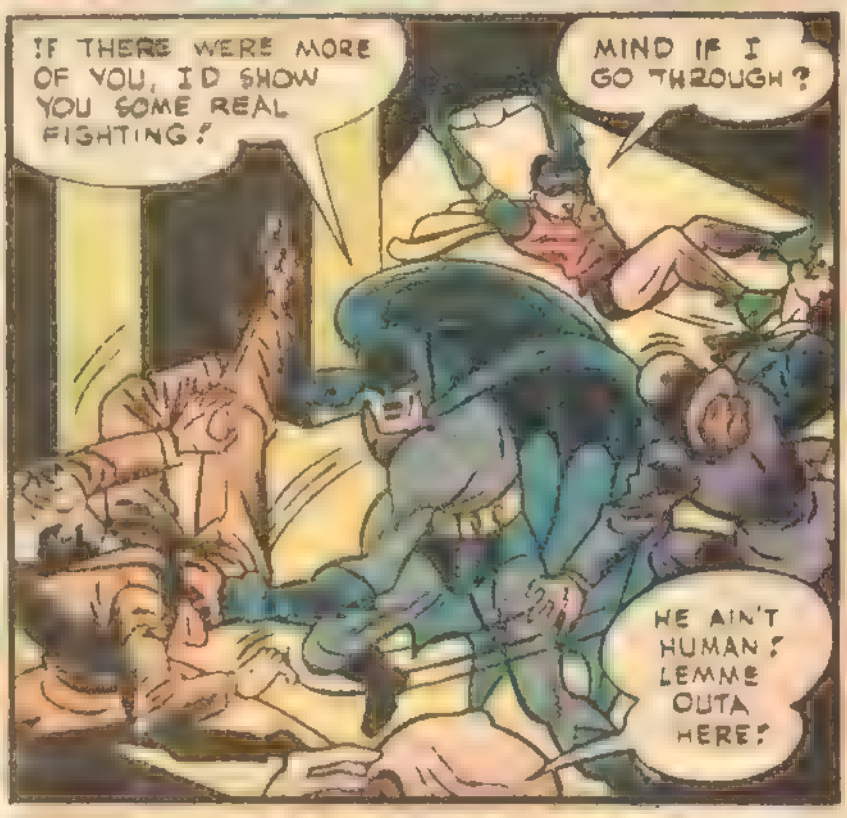



THEY FLED DANGER ONCE— BUT NO ONE CAN CALL HAVRE AND LAREN COWARDS AS THIS PERILOUS CHASE THUNDERS THROUGH THE NIGHT!
FASTER! WE'RE LOSING THEM!
THIS IS OUR TOP SPEED!


THE BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE BEEN TRAVELING, TOO — BY WAY OF OVERHEAD SHORTCUTS...
YOU THINK WE'LL FIND THEM HERE, BATMAN?
CATSPAW MENTIONED A PLACE WITH THE SAME NAME — AND THIS IS A NOTORIOUS HANGOUT FOR CROOKS!
POOL ROOM


WE WANT CORKY HUGGINS AND CATSPAW CARLIN!
DEY AIN'T HERE, BATMAN — AN' YOU AIN'T WELCOME!
NOW SCRAM — OR ELSE!


I DON'T LIKE RATS THAT PULL GUNS!
—OH BRIDGE!
BAM


IF THERE WERE MORE OF YOU, I'D SHOW YOU SOME REAL FIGHTING!
MIND IF I GO THROUGH?
HE AIN'T HUMAN! LEMME OUTTA HERE!

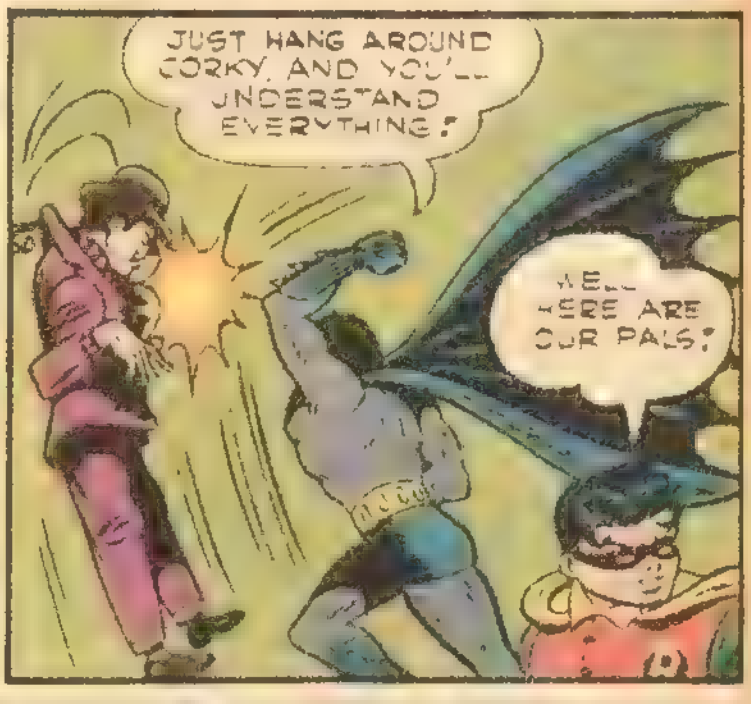
WE'LL TRY THE BACK ROOM, ROBIN!
CHECK!

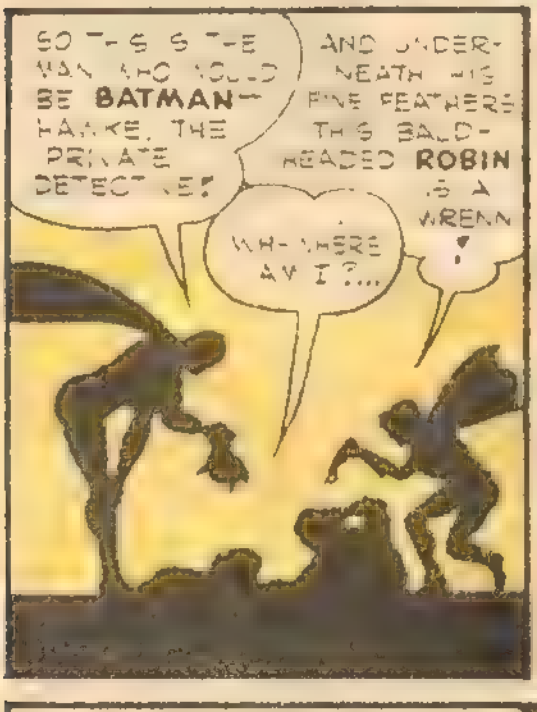
BUT CORKY AND CATSPAW HAVE ALREADY PREPARED FOR BATTLE!
DOUSE DA GLIM, CATSPAW — AN' BE READY TA SMACK 'EM WHEN I SQUOIT DA JUICE!
I'M READY!
9

HEROES BY PROXY

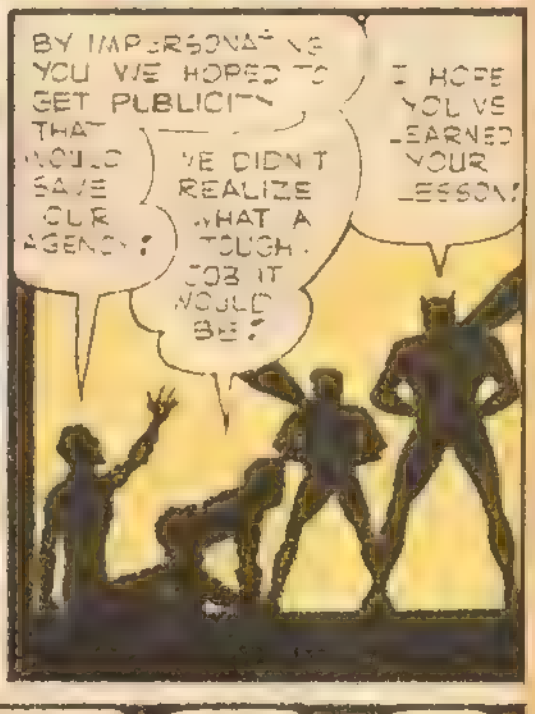
UNDER THE IMPACT OF HURTLING SHOULDERS, A DOOR BURSTS INWARD...
TIME FOR YOU CROOKS TO RETIRE!
CAPED FIGURES CHARGE— ONLY TO BE MET BY A STINGING SPRAY!
MY EYES! I CAN'T SEE!
HAW, HAW! THE MIGHTY BATMAN— LICKED BY BUG-KILLIN' JUICE! DIS IS RICH!
NEITHER CAN I!
I'M REALLY ENJOYIN DIS!
NOT YET, CATSPAW! NOBODY YET EVER SEEN DA BATMAN WIT'OUT HIS MASK! LET'S BE DA FOIST ONES TA KNOW WHO HE REALLY IS BEFORE WE BUMP HIM OFF!
IT AIN'T A BAD IDEA!
OF ALL DA GUYS IN DA WOILD— HIM!
I'D NEVER BELIEVE IT!
BUT SUDDENLY...
YIIIIII! I'M SEEIN' DOUBLE!
SAY IT AIN'T SO— PLEASE!
FEELING DIZZY, CATSPAW?
10

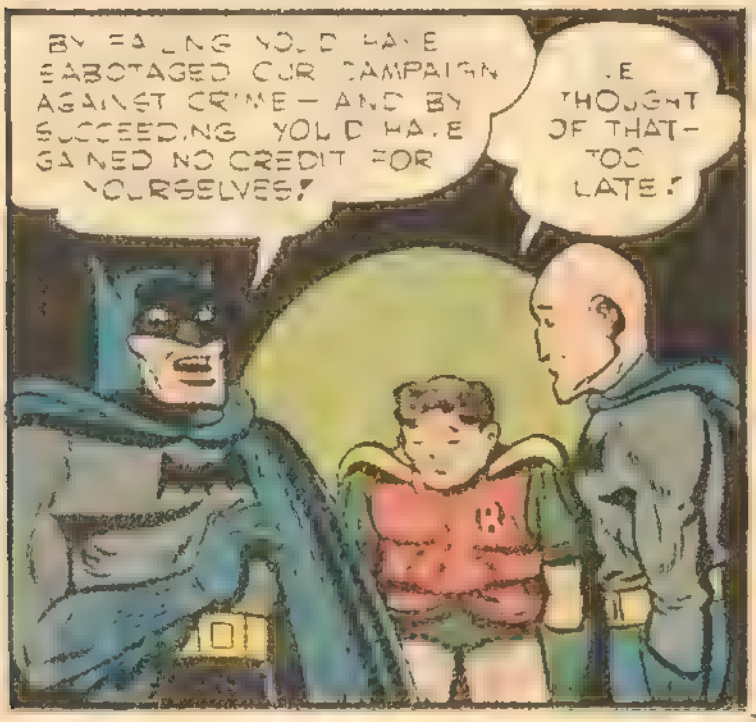
YOU'D BETTER HAVE A CHAIR!

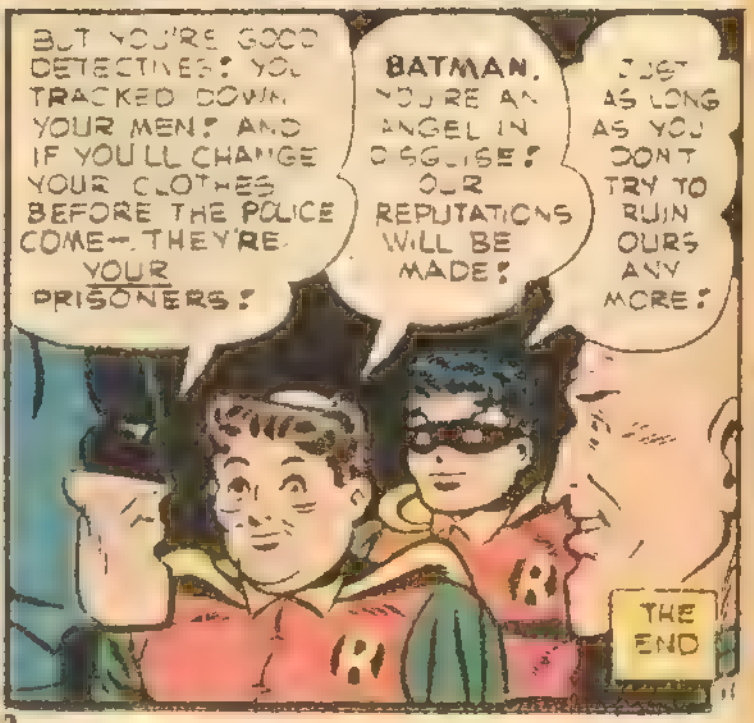

JUST HANG AROUND CORKY, AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING!
WELL HERE ARE OUR PALS!


SO THIS IS THE MAN WHO WOULD BE BATMAN— HAWKE, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE!
AND UNDERNEATH HIS FINE FEATHERS THIS BALD-HEADED ROBIN IS A WRENN!
WH-WHERE AM I?...

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
I SEE WE ALL KNOW EACH OTHER!
HUH?...


BY IMPERSONATING YOU WE HOPED TO GET PUBLICITY THAT WOULD SAVE OUR AGENCY!
WE DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT A TOUGH JOB IT WOULD BE!
I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON!


BY FAILING YOU'D HAVE SABOTAGED OUR CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME— AND BY SUCCEEDING YOU'D HAVE GAINED NO CREDIT FOR YOURSELVES!
WE THOUGHT OF THAT— TOO LATE!


BUT YOU'RE GOOD DETECTIVES! YOU TRACKED DOWN YOUR MEN! AND IF YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES BEFORE THE POLICE COME— THEY'RE YOUR PRISONERS!
BATMAN, YOU'RE AN ANGEL IN DISGUISE! OUR REPUTATIONS WILL BE MADE!
JUST AS LONG AS YOU DON'T TRY TO RUIN OURS ANY MORE!
THE END

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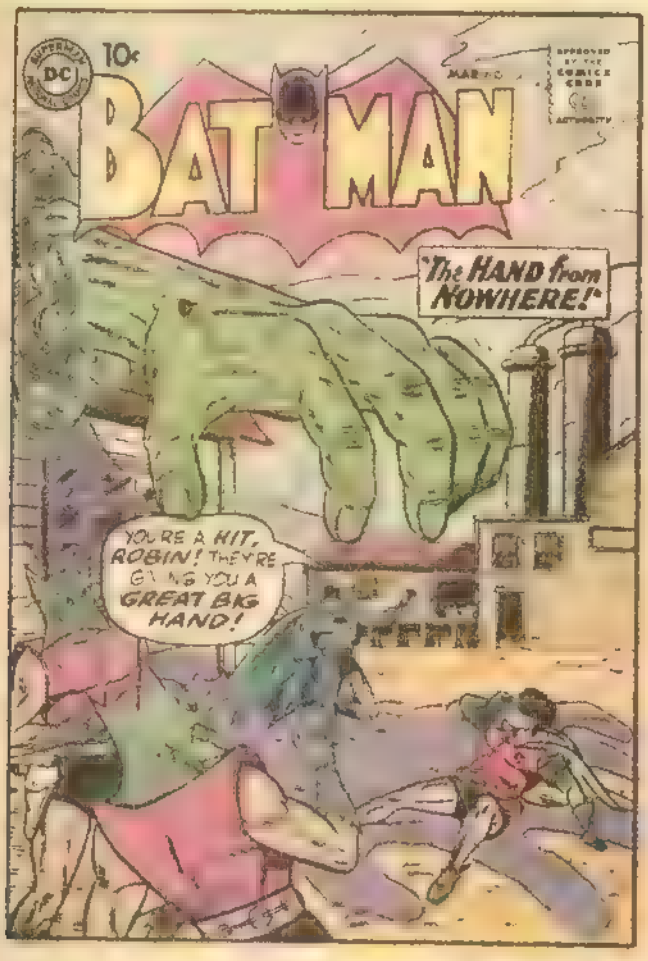
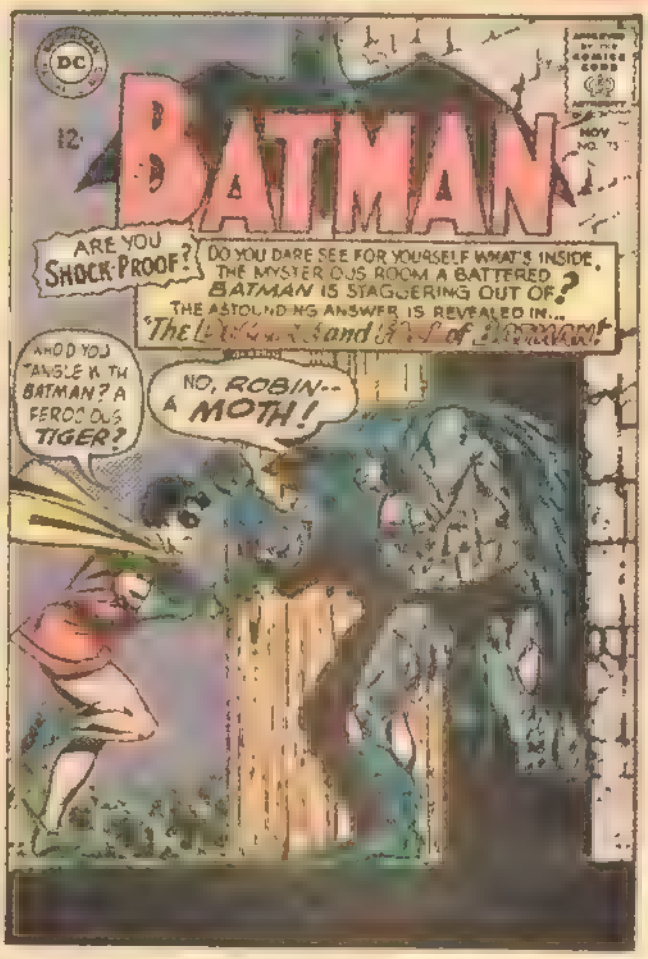
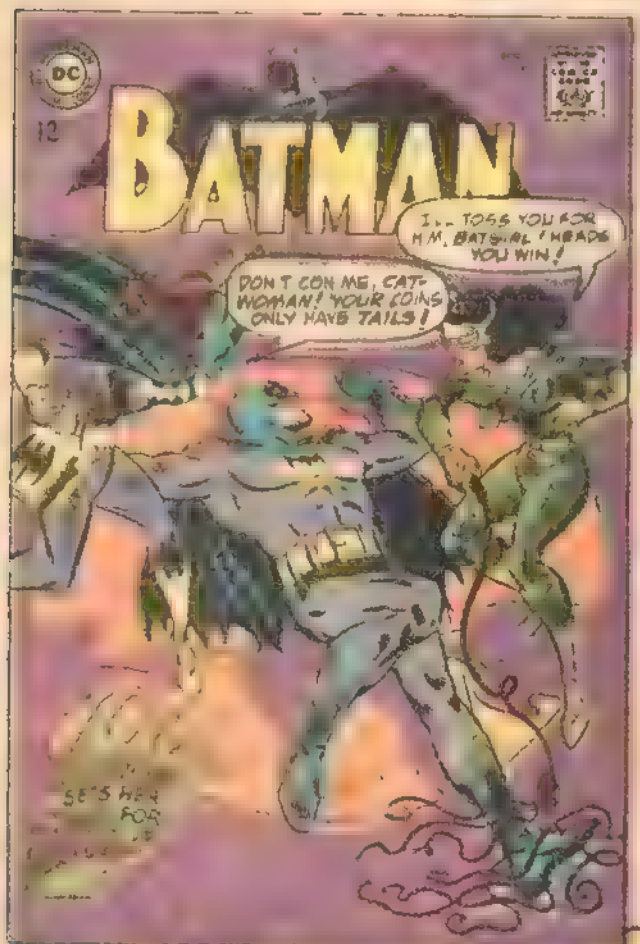
HERE ARE SOME BATMAN COVERS FROM YEARS PAST--ONLY WE'VE CHANGED THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE TO GIVE IT A HUMOROUS SLANT!




12
BATMAN
ARE YOU SHOCK-PROOF?
DO YOU DARE SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT'S INSIDE THE MYSTERIOUS ROOM A BATTERED BATMAN IS STAGGERING OUT OF?
THE ASTOUNDING ANSWER IS REVEALED IN...
AND DO YOU TANGLE WITH BATMAN? A FEROCIOUS TIGER?
NO, ROBIN-- A MOTH!



(FOR THE ORIGINAL COVER BALLOONS, SEE PAGE 80)

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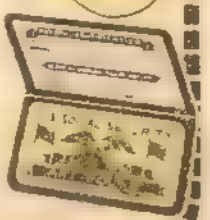

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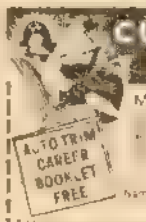

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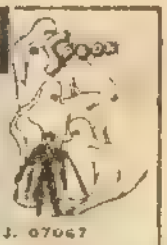

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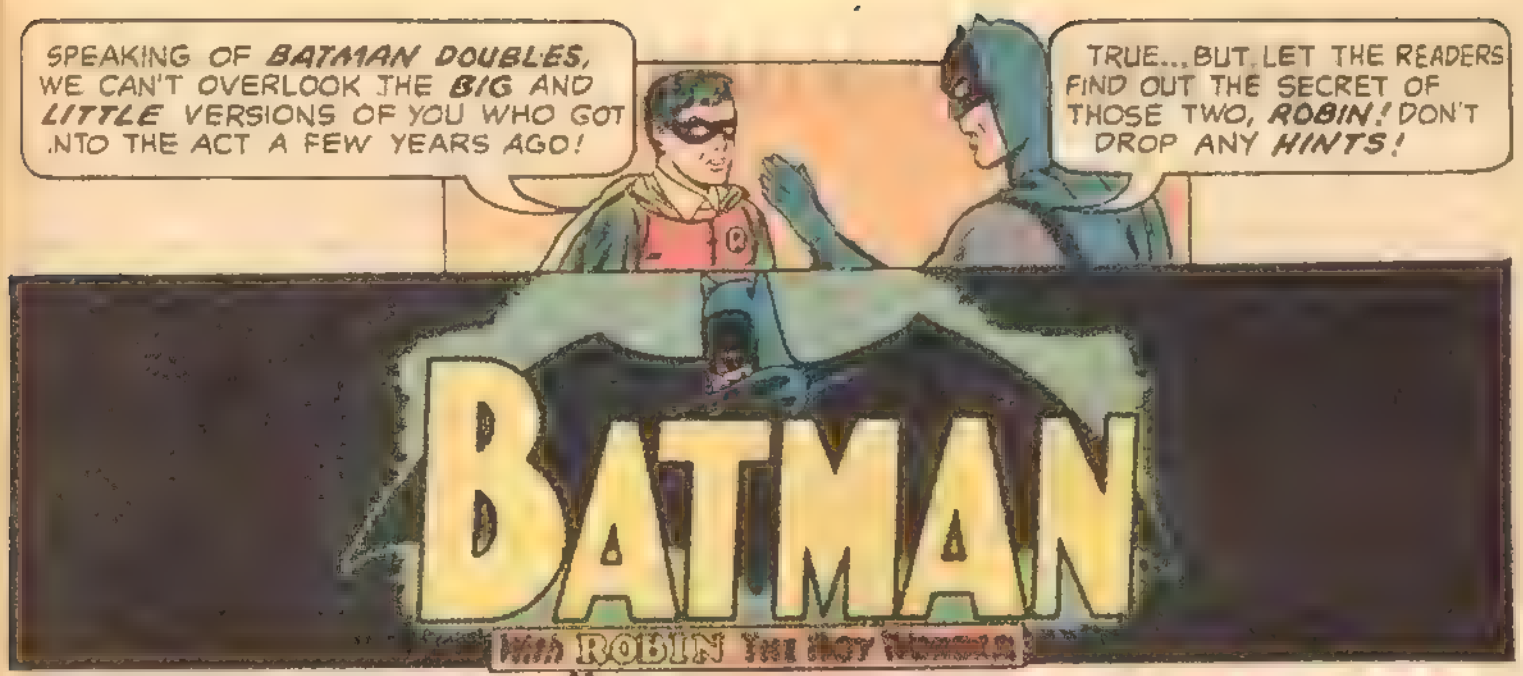
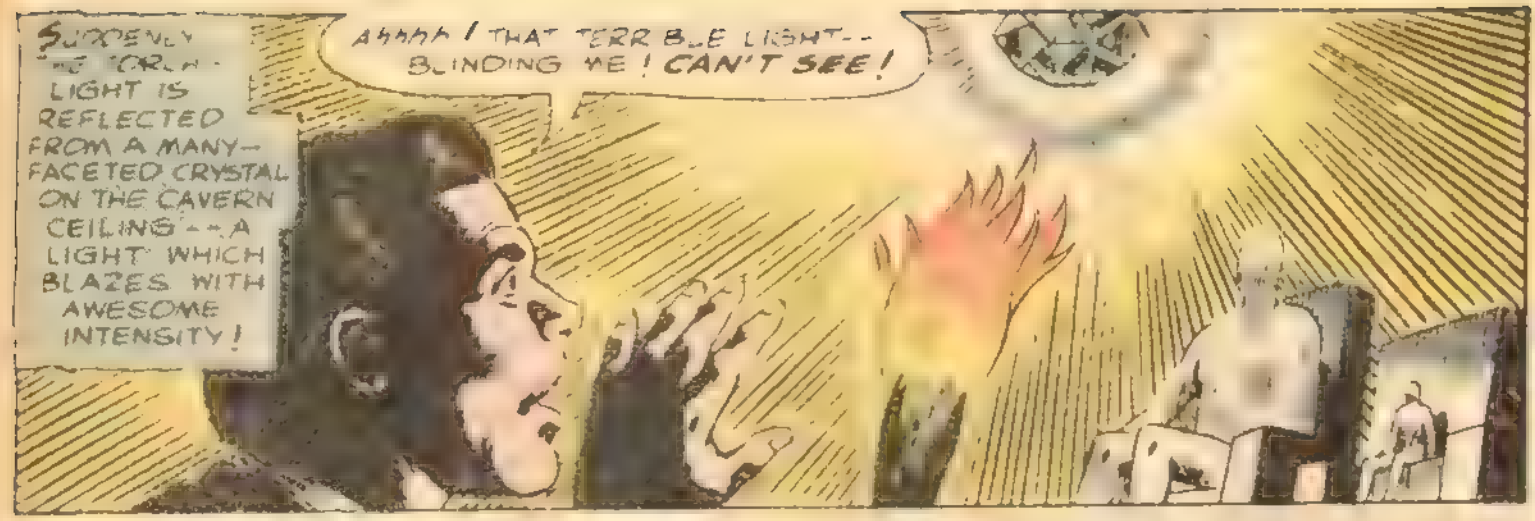
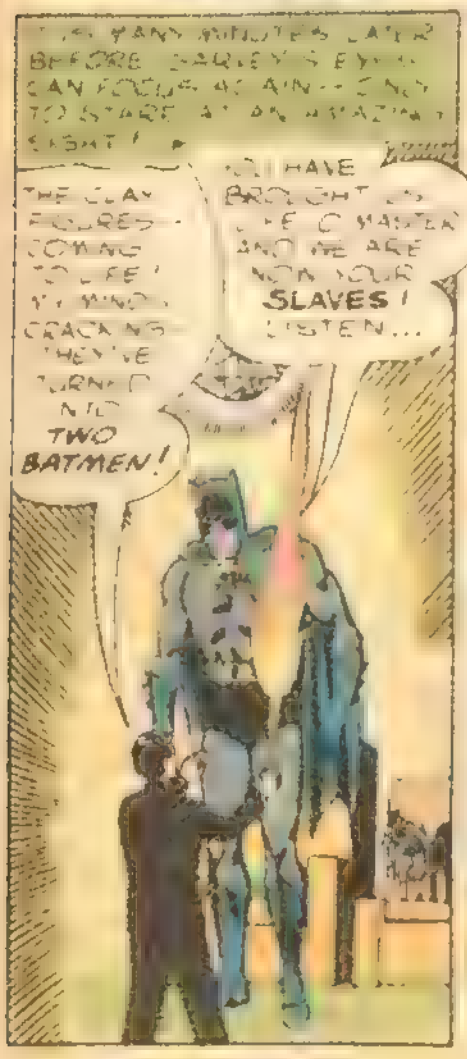

SPEAKING OF BATMAN DOUBLES, WE CAN'T OVERLOOK THE BIG AND LITTLE VERSIONS OF YOU WHO GOT INTO THE ACT A FEW YEARS AGO!
TRUE... BUT LET THE READERS FIND OUT THE SECRET OF THOSE TWO, ROBIN! DON'T DROP ANY HINTS!
BATMAN
WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

FOR CRIMINALS, HAVING BATMAN (AND ROBIN) TO CONTEND WITH IS ROUGH ENOUGH -- BUT THINGS CAN GET EVEN ROUGHER -- ESPECIALLY WHERE THERE ARE THREE BATMEN AROUND! THAT'S THE FINAL BLOW -- THAT'S WHEN CROOKS CRY OUT IN DESPAIR THAT THERE ARE ...

"TWO BATMEN TOO MANY!"

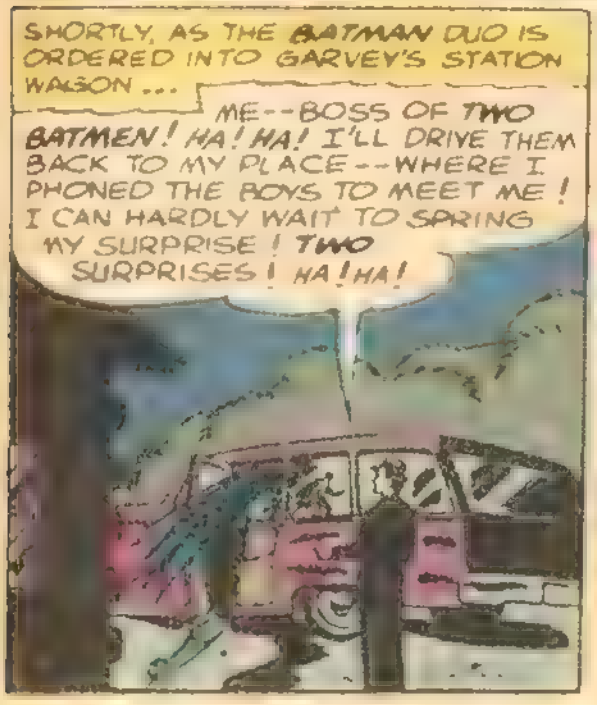
THIS IS ED "NUMBERS" GARVEY, A MAN AT WAR--A MAN BESIEGED BY "BATS"--EVEN AT HIS HOME!
A BAT-SHAPED KITE! ANYBODY ELSE'D THINK A KID LOST IT--BUT I'M POSITIVE BATMAN PUT IT THERE--AS ANOTHER MANEUVER IN HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR AGAINST ME!
AND EVEN A WALK THROUGH A GOTHAM CITY ALLEYWAY TAKES HIM TO A BATTLEGROUND OF "BATS"!
LAUNDRY--MAKING A BAT-SHAPED SHADOW! ANOTHER "COINCIDENCE" RIGGED BY BATMAN! HE CAN'T PROVE I STOLE THE KIMBER GEM COLLECTION, SO HE'S TRYING TO STAMPEDE ME INTO SURRENDERING IT...
I WAS DOING PLENTY OKAY IN THE NUMBERS RACKET, UNTIL I BECAME OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA OF STEALING THE KIMBER GEM SET! THE IDEA WAS DRIVING ME AS BATTY AS BATMAN IS DRIVING ME NOW!
SOMETIMES THE BEST STRATEGY IN WARFARE IS TO RETREAT--AND GARVEY'S RETREAT IS HIS ISOLATED HUNTING LODGE IN THE MOUNTAINS...
IF I STAY OUTA TOWN FOR AWHILE, BATMAN MAY LAY OFF ME! HEY--THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LANDSLIDE AHEAD! I HOPE MY CABIN ISN'T IN ITS PATH--
KRUMBLE!
RELIEVED THAT HIS LODGE IS UNHARMED, CURIOSITY PROMPTS GARVEY TO CHECK THE PATH OF THE LANDSLIDE...
THE LANDSLIDE UNCOVERED A CAVE! BATS FLYING OUT--REMIND ME OF A BAT-CAVE! UGH--CAN'T I EVER STOP THINKING ABOUT BATMAN?
AS GARVEY'S TORCH PROBES THE CAVERN'S DARK DEPTHS...
TWO SEATED FIGURES--ONE BIG--ONE LITTLE! THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN MODELED FROM CLAY!

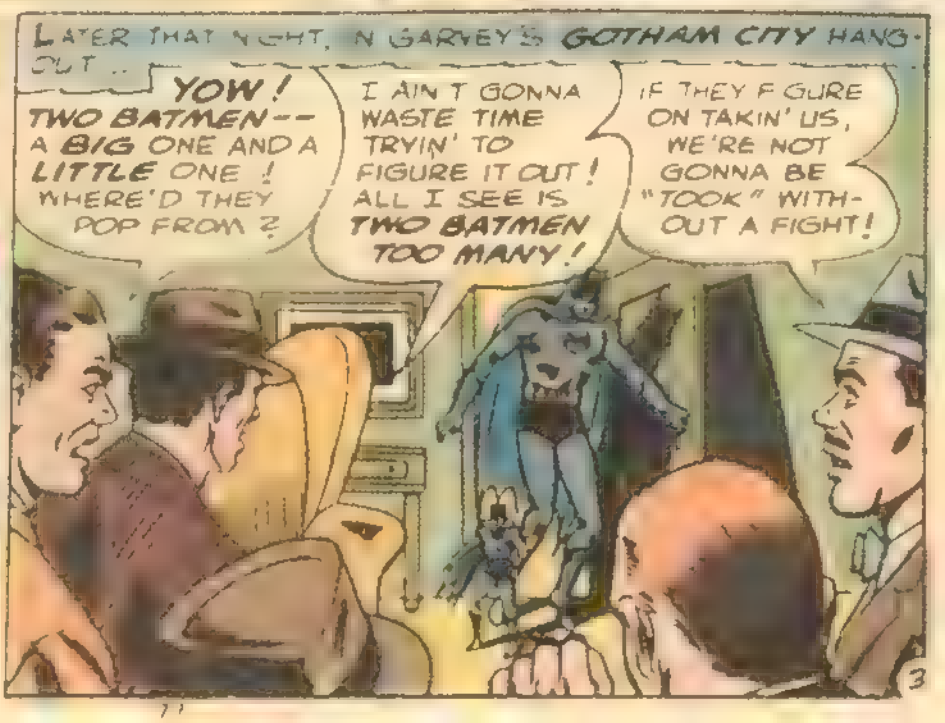

SUDDENLY THE TORCH-LIGHT IS REFLECTED FROM A MANY-FACETED CRYSTAL ON THE CAVERN CEILING--A LIGHT WHICH BLAZES WITH AWESOME INTENSITY!
AHHHH! THAT TERRIBLE LIGHT--BLINDING ME! CAN'T SEE!


A FEW MINUTES LATER BEFORE HARVEY'S EYES CAN FOCUS AGAIN--SO AS TO STARE AT AN AMAZING SIGHT!
THE CLAY FIGURES--COMING TO LIFE! THEY'RE CRACKING--THEY'VE TURNED INTO TWO BATMEN!
YOU HAVE BROUGHT US BACK TO LIFE, O MASTER AND WE ARE NOW YOUR SLAVES! LISTEN...

MANY MOONS AGO A MIGHTY SHAMAN* FASHIONED US FROM CLAY AND MOLDED THAT WHEN THE MAGIC CRYSTAL BATHED US IN ITS LUMINOUS GLOW WE WOULD BE ENDOWED WITH LIFE...
...MOLDED INTO THE IMAGE IN THE MIND OF THE PERSON BRINGING US LIFE-GIVING LIGHT!
*EDITOR'S NOTE: SHAMAN--AN INDIAN MEDICINE MAN BELIEVED GIFTED WITH SUPERNATURAL POWERS!

HMMM! BECAUSE OF THOSE CAVE BATS I WAS THINKING OF BATMAN WHEN THE LIGHT TOUCHED THE CRYSTAL--SO THEY BECAME "BATMEN"! AMAZING! I WOULDN'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS IF THE PROOF WASN'T BEFORE MY EYES!
AND NOW, MASTER--WE ARE READY TO OBEY YOUR COMMANDS!


SHORTLY, AS THE BATMAN DUO IS ORDERED INTO GARVEY'S STATION WAGON...
ME--BOSS OF TWO BATMEN! HA! HA! I'LL DRIVE THEM BACK TO MY PLACE--WHERE I PHONED THE BOYS TO MEET ME! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SPRING MY SURPRISE! TWO SURPRISES! HA! HA!

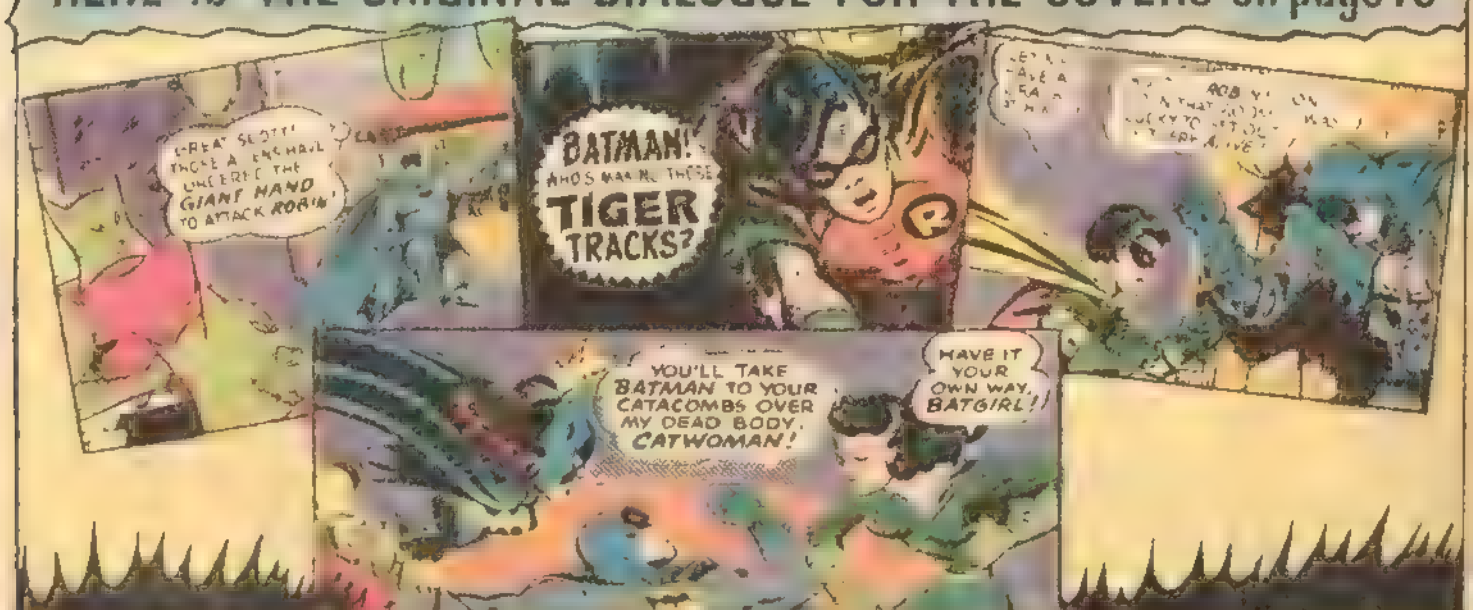

LATER THAT NIGHT, IN GARVEY'S GOTHAM CITY HANG-OUT..
YOW! TWO BATMEN--A BIG ONE AND A LITTLE ONE! WHERE'D THEY POP FROM?
I AIN'T GONNA WASTE TIME TRYIN' TO FIGURE IT OUT! ALL I SEE IS TWO BATMEN TOO MANY!
IF THEY FIGURE ON TAKIN' US, WE'RE NOT GONNA BE "TOOK" WITHOUT A FIGHT!
3

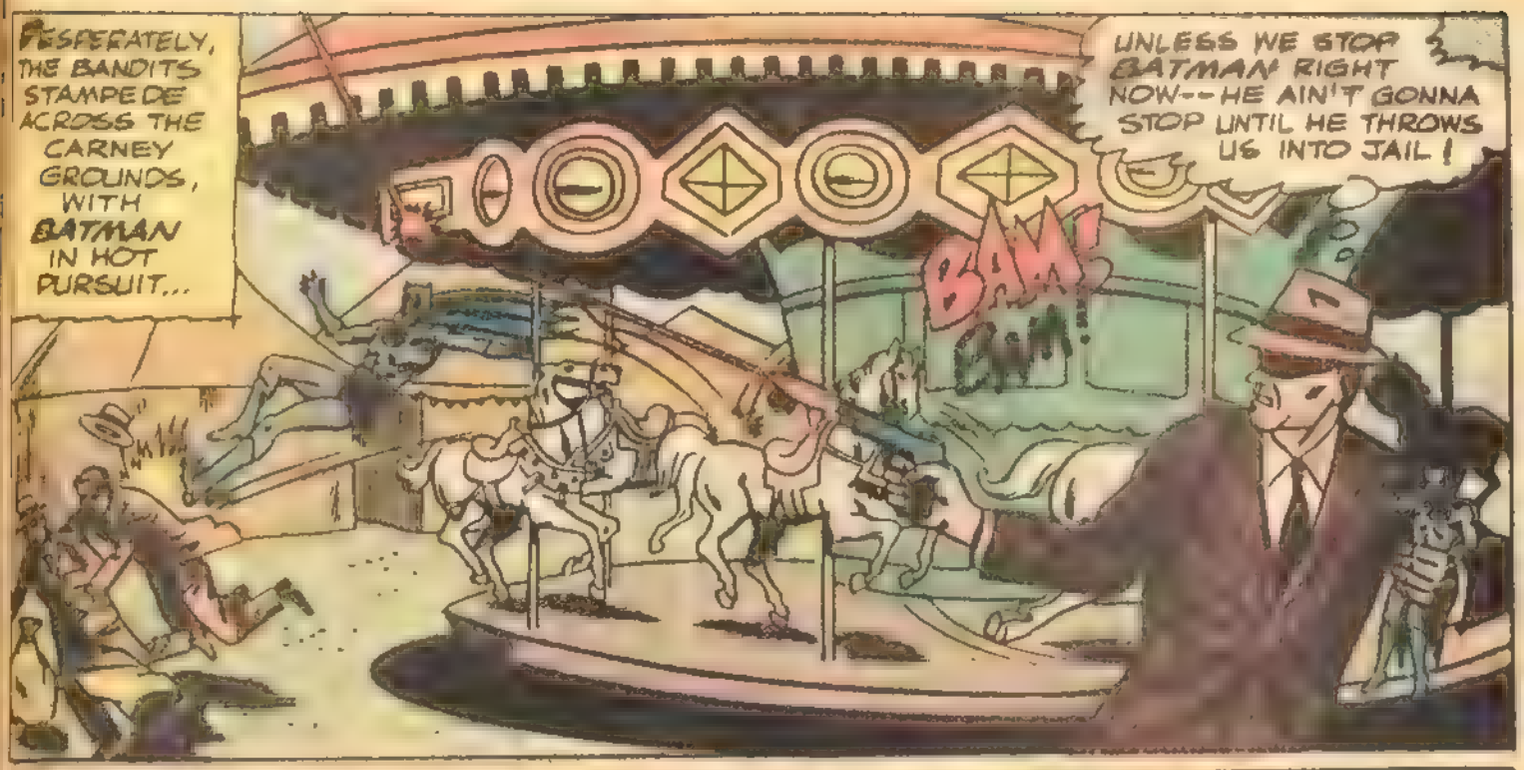
Uhh! CAN'T REACH HIS CHIN! I'D NEED A POGO STICK TO HOP UP THAT HIGH!
THEY BEGAN THIS BATTLE, LITTLE BATMAN, SO WE NEED NO ORDERS TO DEFEND OURSELVES!
TRUE, BIG BATMAN! SO NOW WE PLUNGE RIGHT INTO BATTLE -- FISTS FIRST!
ABRUPTLY, AN OBSERVER STEPS INTO THE BATTLEGROUND...
HAW! HAW! HAW! I HAVEN'T HAD A YOCK LIKE THIS IN YEARS! OKAY, SLAVES-- STOP FIGHTING! AS FOR YOU "TOUGH" GUYS, PULL YOURSELVES TOGETHER SO I CAN EXPLAIN...
WE OBEY, MASTER!
"MASTER"? "SLAVES"?
LATER-- GRIMLY, EAGERLY, GARVEY ISSUES THE COMMAND THAT HE HOPES WILL END THE CAREER OF HIS NEMESIS FOREVER!
NOW, SLAVES-- I ORDER YOU TO SEEK OUT AND DESTROY BATMAN!
DESTROY THE MAN AFTER WHOM WE WERE PATTERNED? IMPOSSIBLE!
BECAUSE BATMAN FIGHTS EVIL, WE, TOO, CANNOT OBEY ANY COMMAND TO DO EVIL!

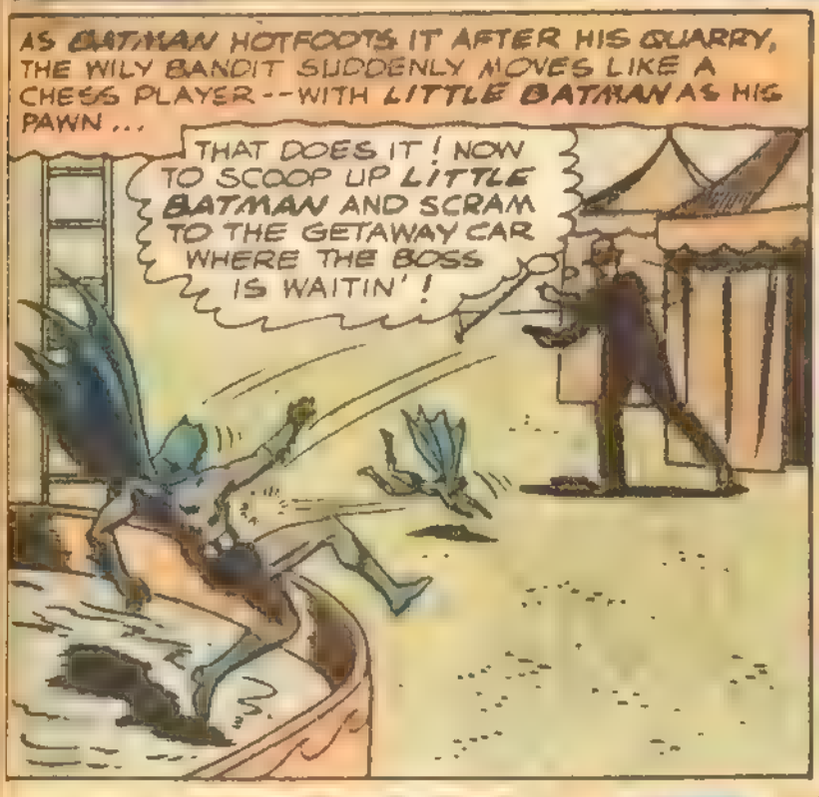
Hmm! THIS COMPLICATES MATTERS--BUT I'VE SOLVED TOUGHER PROBLEMS! OFFHAND, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE USE OF BIG BATMAN, BUT I GOT ME A NIFTY IDEA HOW TO PUT LITTLE BATMAN TO WORK FOR US!
AFTER ORDERING THE TWO BATMEN INTO ANOTHER ROOM SO THAT THEY CANNOT OVERHEAR THE SCHEME HE EXPLAINS TO HIS GANG, HE RETURNS TO HIS SLAVES...
NOW, LITTLE BATMAN, MY ORDERS FOR YOU... SAY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
IT'S A WEAKNESS I HAVE, MASTER! TO REGAIN MY VITALITY, IT MUST BE RENEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LIGHT OF CERTAIN STARS! TONIGHT THE BLUE-WHITE STAR, RIGEL, IS IN ASCENDANCY...
...SO YOU MUST LET RIGEL SHINE UPON A BLUE-WHITE GEM--THEN TOUCH THAT GEM TO MY FOREHEAD TO REVITALIZE MY LIFE-FORCE!
A BLUE-WHITE DIAMOND? A CINCH! I CAN PUT MY HANDS ON ONE IN A JIFFY! WAIT HERE!
SHORTLY, GARVEY RETURNS WITH A MAGNIFICENT BLUE-WHITE DIAMOND, AND BEGINS THE REQUIRED RITUAL...
Ah! I CAN FEEL STELLAR ENERGY FLOWING THROUGH ME! NOW I AM READY, MASTER!
OKAY! SOON AS I PUT THIS DIAMOND BACK IN ITS HIDING PLACE, WE'LL GET STARTED!
MIDNIGHT! THE BANGLE BROTHERS CARNIVAL IS DARK AND DESERTED--BUT BEHIND THE PAY-WAGON'S LOCKED DOOR, THE DAY'S RECEIPTS ARE BEING TALLIED. SUDDENLY...
GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN! I'M HERE TO OFFER MY SERVICES IN YOUR CARNIVAL!
WOW! A MIDGET--THE SMALLEST MIDGET THAT EVER LIVED! NAW! IT'S A TRICK! IT CAN'T BE REAL!
OF COURSE I'M REAL! I CAN BE YOUR STAR ATTRACTION! I NOT ONLY LOOK LIKE BATMAN, BUT I CAN DO ANYTHING HE DOES! I'VE EVEN GOT MY OWN BAT-ROPE! WATCH THIS--!
5

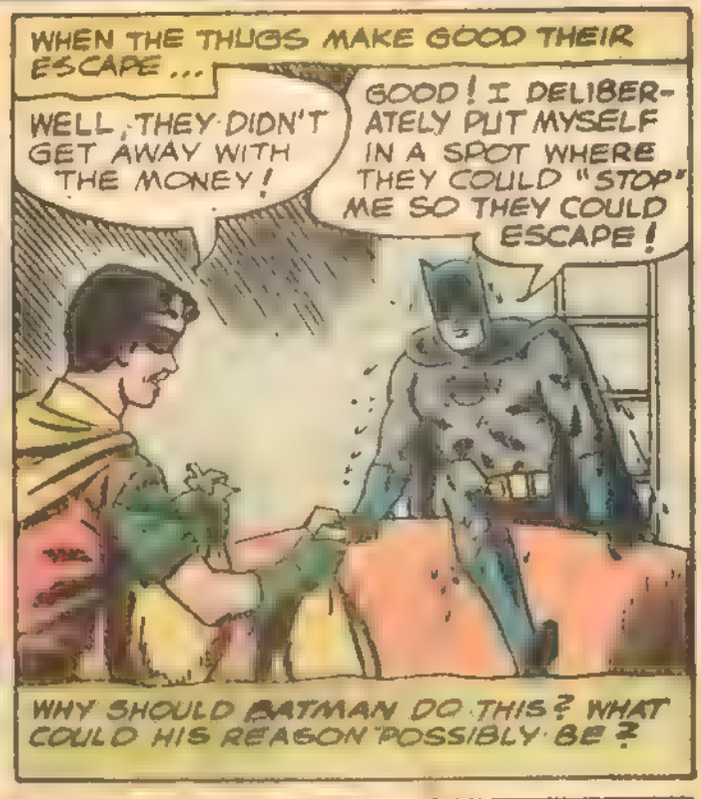
JUST BECAUSE I'M LITTLE, DON'T THINK I'M A SMALL-TIMER!
CONVINCED? READY TO SIGN ME UP NOW?
AND HOW! STAY PUT! DON'T MOVE! FIRST I WANT TO GET MY BROTHER IN HERE TO SEE YOU!
BUT AS BANGLE UNLOCKS THE DOOR, GARVEY'S LURKING GANG ATTACKS!
HANDS OFF YOUR GUNS, GUARDS! DON'T NOBODY TRY TO BE A DEAD HERO!
WE ONLY WANT THE CASH--NOT TARGET-PRACTICE! LITTLE BATMAN, YOU COME WITH US! BOSS'S ORDERS.
SCOOPING UP THE SACKS OF MONEY THE BANDITS EXIT--ONLY TO FIND A FAMED CRIME-FIGHTING DUO CHARGING AT THEM!...
ULP! THE REAL BATMAN--AND ROBIN'S WITH HIM!
THE HEAT'S ON--SO COOL OFF!
HAPPY ICE CREAM
STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING

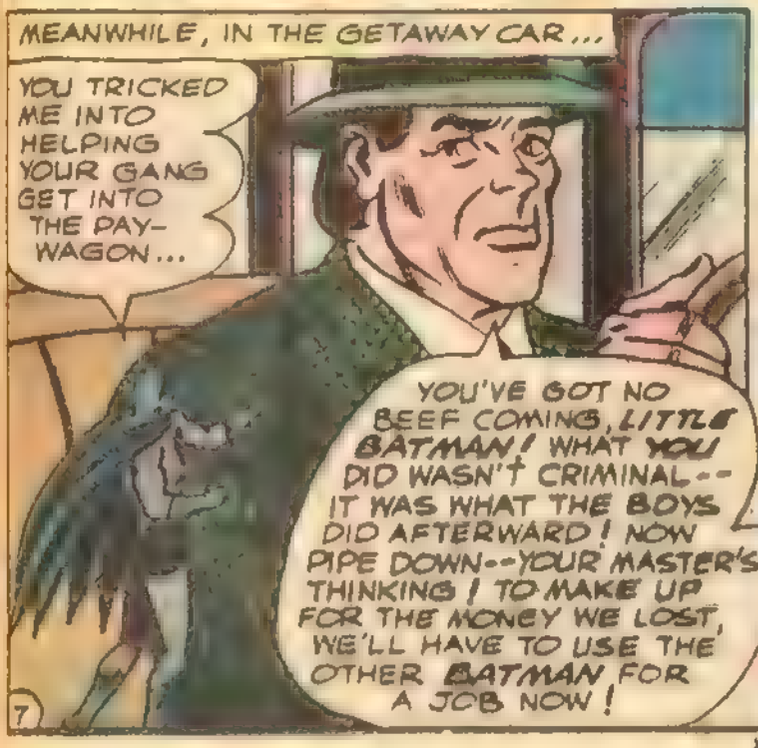
HERE IS THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE FOR THE COVERS on page 73

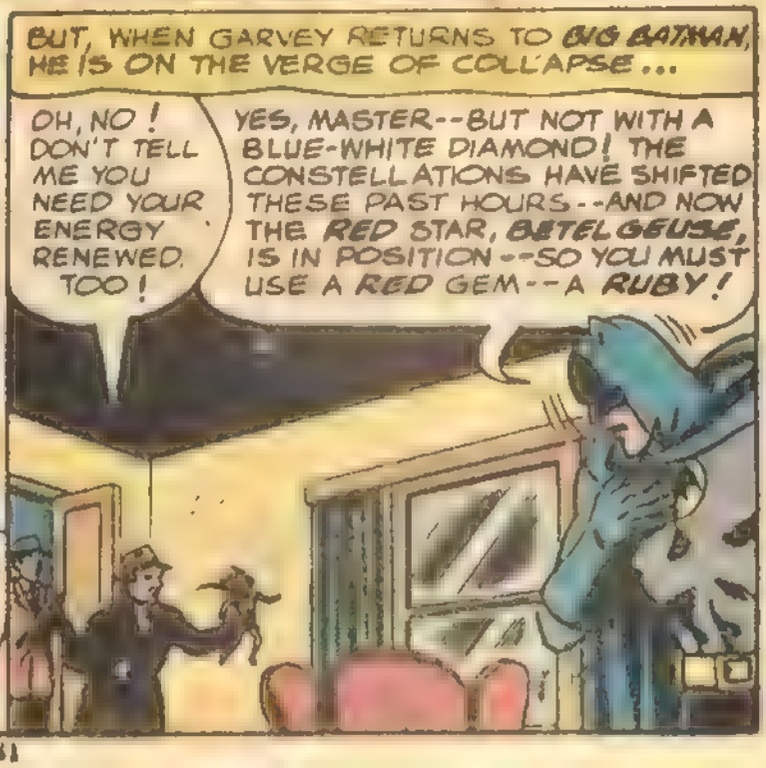

GREAT SCOTT! THERE A GIANT HAND TO ATTACK ROBIN!
BATMAN! WHOSE ARE THESE TIGER TRACKS?
YOU'LL TAKE BATMAN TO YOUR CATACOMBS OVER MY DEAD BODY, CATWOMAN!
HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY, BATGIRL!


DESPERATELY, THE BANDITS STAMPEDE ACROSS THE CARNEY GROUNDS, WITH BATMAN IN HOT PURSUIT...
UNLESS WE STOP BATMAN RIGHT NOW--HE AIN'T GONNA STOP UNTIL HE THROWS US INTO JAIL!
BAM!
BAM!


AS BATMAN HOTFOOTS IT AFTER HIS QUARRY, THE WILY BANDIT SUDDENLY MOVES LIKE A CHESS PLAYER--WITH LITTLE BATMAN AS HIS PAWN...
THAT DOES IT! NOW TO SCOOP UP LITTLE BATMAN AND SCRAM TO THE GETAWAY CAR WHERE THE BOSS IS WAITIN'!


WHEN THE THUGS MAKE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE...
WELL, THEY DIDN'T GET AWAY WITH THE MONEY!
GOOD! I DELIBERATELY PUT MYSELF IN A SPOT WHERE THEY COULD "STOP" ME SO THEY COULD ESCAPE!
WHY SHOULD BATMAN DO THIS? WHAT COULD HIS REASON POSSIBLY BE?

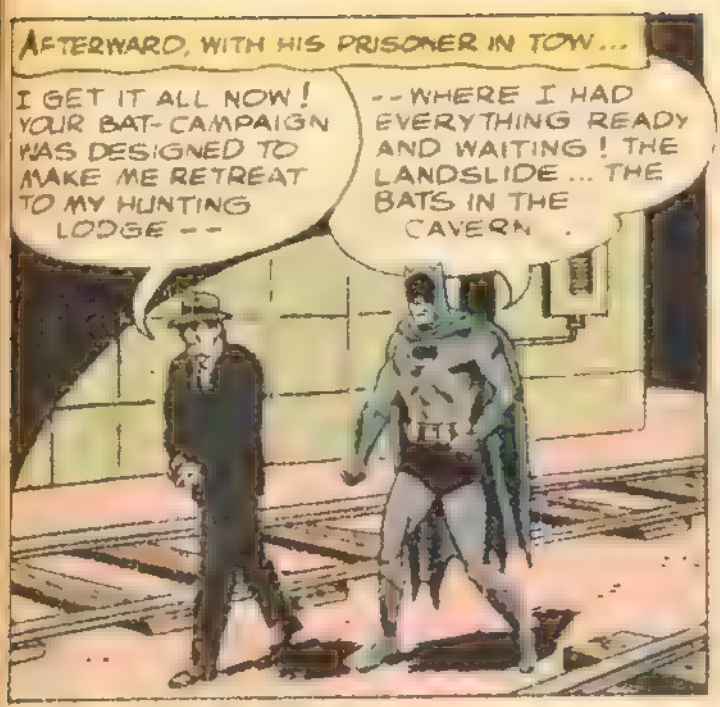

MEANWHILE, IN THE GETAWAY CAR...
YOU TRICKED ME INTO HELPING YOUR GANG GET INTO THE PAY-WAGON...
YOU'VE GOT NO BEEF COMING, LITTLE BATMAN! WHAT YOU DID WASN'T CRIMINAL--IT WAS WHAT THE BOYS DID AFTERWARD! NOW PIPE DOWN--YOUR MASTER'S THINKING! TO MAKE UP FOR THE MONEY WE LOST, WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE OTHER BATMAN FOR A JOB NOW!
7

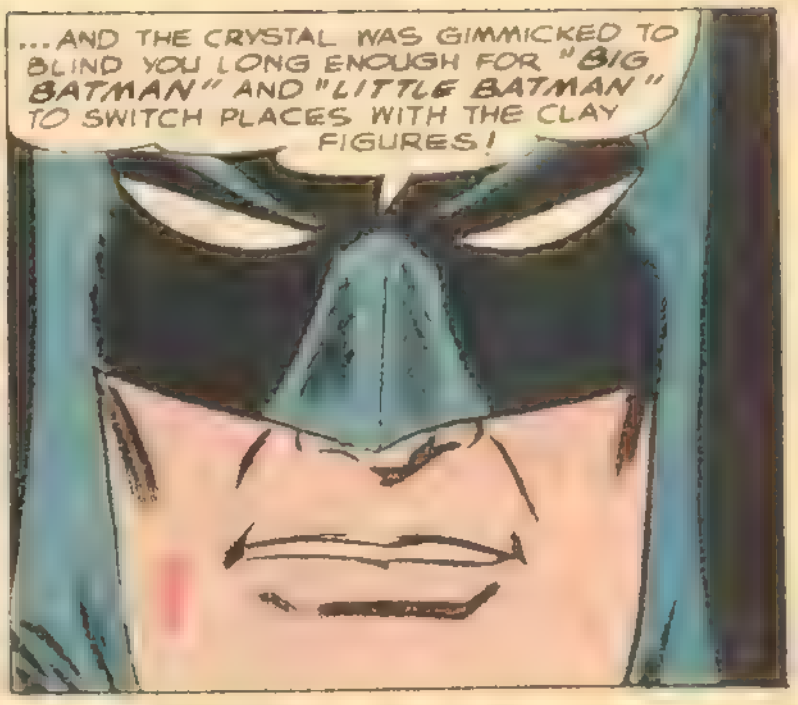

BUT, WHEN GARVEY RETURNS TO BIG BATMAN, HE IS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE...
OH, NO! DON'T TELL ME YOU NEED YOUR ENERGY RENEWED, TOO!
YES, MASTER--BUT NOT WITH A BLUE-WHITE DIAMOND! THE CONSTELLATIONS HAVE SHIFTED THESE PAST HOURS--AND NOW THE RED STAR, BETELGEUSE, IS IN POSITION--SO YOU MUST USE A RED GEM--A RUBY!

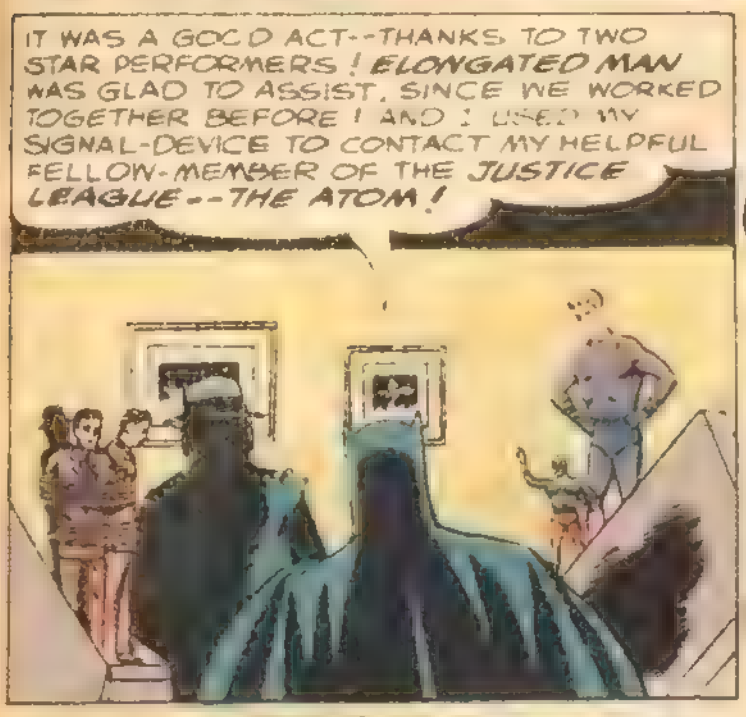
ONCE AGAIN, GARVEY RETURNS FROM ANOTHER ROOM, AND...
HOW'S THAT, BIG BOY? FEEL REVITALIZED? FEEL THE LIFE-FORCE COURSING THROUGH YOUR BODY?
O YES, MASTER-- YES...
SUDDENLY, GARVEY FLASHES A SECRET SIGNAL TO HIS HENCHMEN, AND...
CRUNK!
TAKE 'EM!
SO SWIFT, SO SURPRIS'NG IS THE ATTACK, THAT BOTH BATMEN ARE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD...
HA! JUST LIKE SWATTIN' A MOSQUITO!
ALL THAT "GEM-ENERGY" TALK MADE ME SUSPIC'OUS, SO I DECIDED TO TEST BIG BATMAN! I NOT ONLY TOOK OUT MY REAL RUBY-- BUT A COPY, TOO! WHEN I HELD THE FAKE "RUBY" TO HIS FOREHEAD, AND HE WAS "REVITALIZED" I KNEW HE WAS A FAKE, TOO!
MOMENTS LATER, AFTER REPLACING THE REAL RUBY IN ITS SECRET HIDING PLACE, GARVEY RETURNS...
IF ALL THAT "SHAMAN" JAZZ WAS PHONEY, WHO ARE THESE CHARACTERS?
THEY CAN'T BE HUMAN! THEY MUST BE ROBOTS! REMOVE THEIR BATMAN COSTUMES AND LET'S SEE!
BUT, WHEN THE COSTUMES ARE TORN AWAY...
HUH? LITTLE BATMAN WAS THE ATOM! AND "BIG BATMAN" WAS THE ELONGATED MAN... STRETCHED TO FIT THE PADDED BATMAN COSTUME!
8

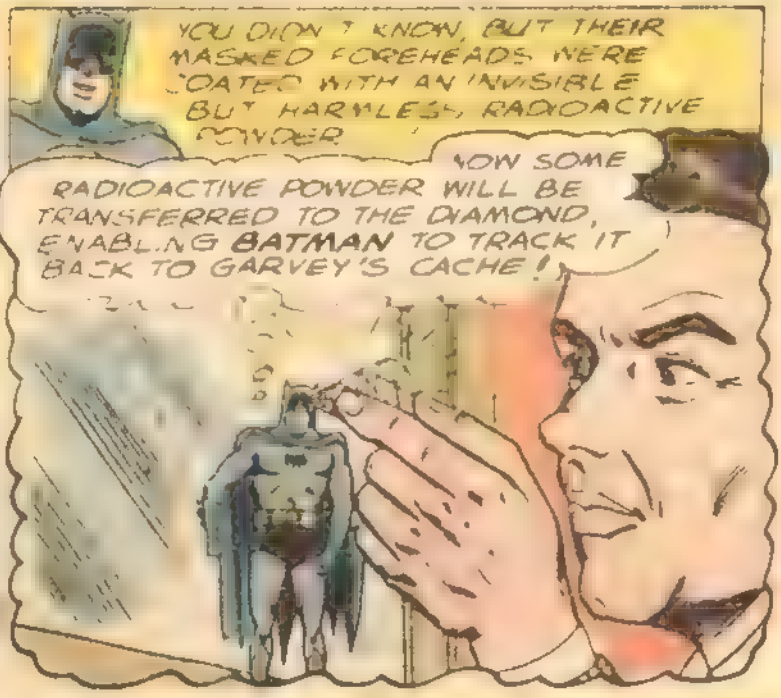
EVERYBODY KNOWS THE ELONGATED MAN IS RALPH DIBNY--BUT WHAT'S THE ATOM'S SECRET IDENTITY? THAT'S ONE QUESTION I'LL SETTLE RIGHT NOW!
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN, CAN WE, ROBIN?
IF ONLY I COULD CONNECT...
KEEP TRYING--YOU MAY BE ABLE TO NAIL ME YET--BUT DON'T COUNT ON IT!
I DON'T MIND A LITTLE COMPETITION--BUT THIS IS WORSE THAN TAKIN' ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
I'M NO HERO! TIME I USED MY PREPARED "ESCAPE HATCH"!
GARVEY--HE'S YANKED A SWITCH TO A SECRET TRAPDOOR--SO HE CAN MAKE HIS GETAWAY...
ROBIN, I'M GOING AFTER GARVEY! CAN YOU HANDLE THINGS HERE?
SURE--THERE ISN'T A SOLID PUNCH LEFT IN THE WHOLE CROWD!
9

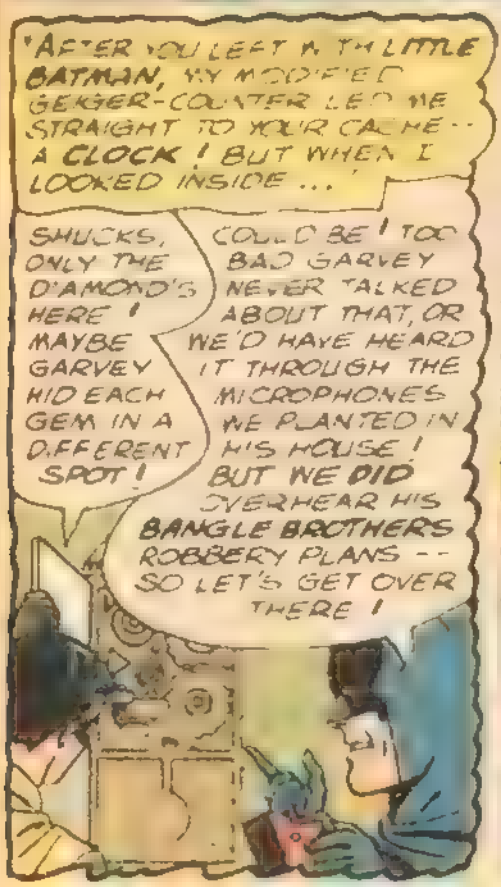
TO BATMAN'S ASTONISHMENT, HE DROPS INTO A SPREADING NETWORK OF TRACKS...
I'LL BE DARNED! A SECTION OF AN OLD SUBWAY RUNS RIGHT UNDER HIS HOUSE! AND THERE GOES GARVEY--ON AN ELECTRIFIED GO-CART!
TOO LATE, THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER HURLS HIMSELF AT THE SPEEDING VEHICLE...
LAY OFF, BATMAN--THIS IS A PRIVATE CAR! NO FREE RIDERS TODAY!
EVEN AS THE ELECTRIFIED CAR HUMS AWAY, THE CAPED CRUSADER SNATCHES UP A DISCARDED OLD CROW-BAR, AND DARTS THROUGH THE LABY-RINTH!
I'VE GOT ONE ADVANTAGE--HIS CAR HAS TO STAY ON THE TRACK--BUT I'M ON FOOT! I CAN CROSS OVER, TAKE A SHORT-CUT, AND INTERCEPT HIM!
LIKE A HUNTER, BATMAN STALKS HIS FLEET QUARRY--AND THEN THRUSTS HIS WEAPON FOR-WARD WITH THE SPEED OF A SPEAR...
TOO BAD, GARVEY--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE JUST BEEN...
...DERAILED!
EEEYAH!

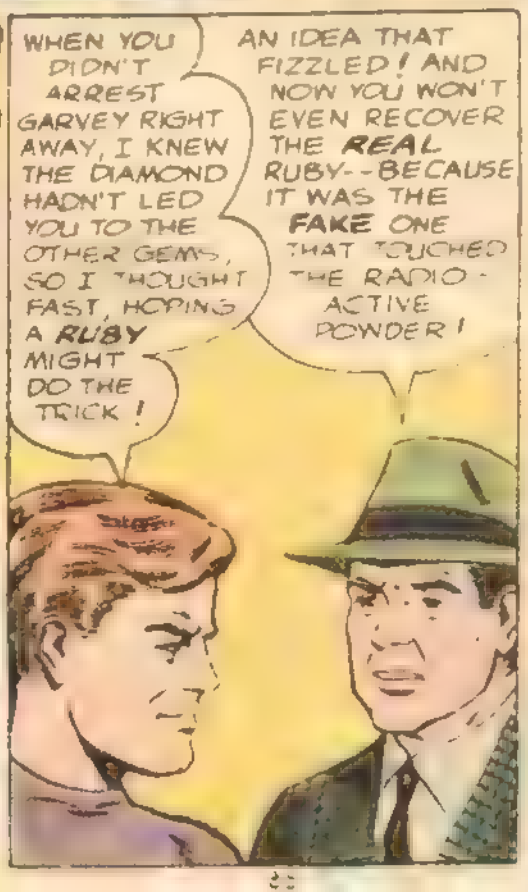

AFTERWARD, WITH HIS PRISONER IN TOW...
I GET IT ALL NOW! YOUR BAT-CAMPAIGN WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE ME RETREAT TO MY HUNTING LODGE --
--WHERE I HAD EVERYTHING READY AND WAITING! THE LANDSLIDE... THE BATS IN THE CAVERN.

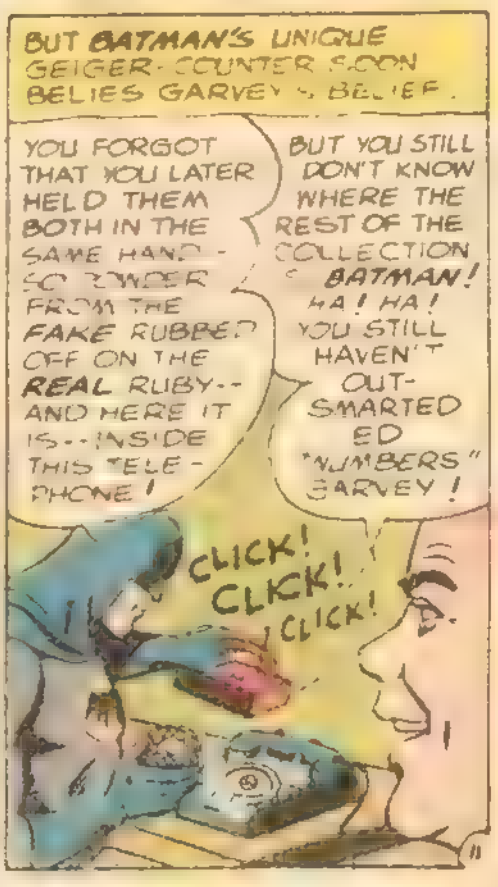

...AND THE CRYSTAL WAS GIMMICKED TO BLIND YOU LONG ENOUGH FOR "BIG BATMAN" AND "LITTLE BATMAN" TO SWITCH PLACES WITH THE CLAY FIGURES!


IT WAS A GOOD ACT--THANKS TO TWO STAR PERFORMERS! ELONGATED MAN WAS GLAD TO ASSIST, SINCE WE WORKED TOGETHER BEFORE! AND I USED MY SIGNAL-DEVICE TO CONTACT MY HELPFUL FELLOW-MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--THE ATOM!

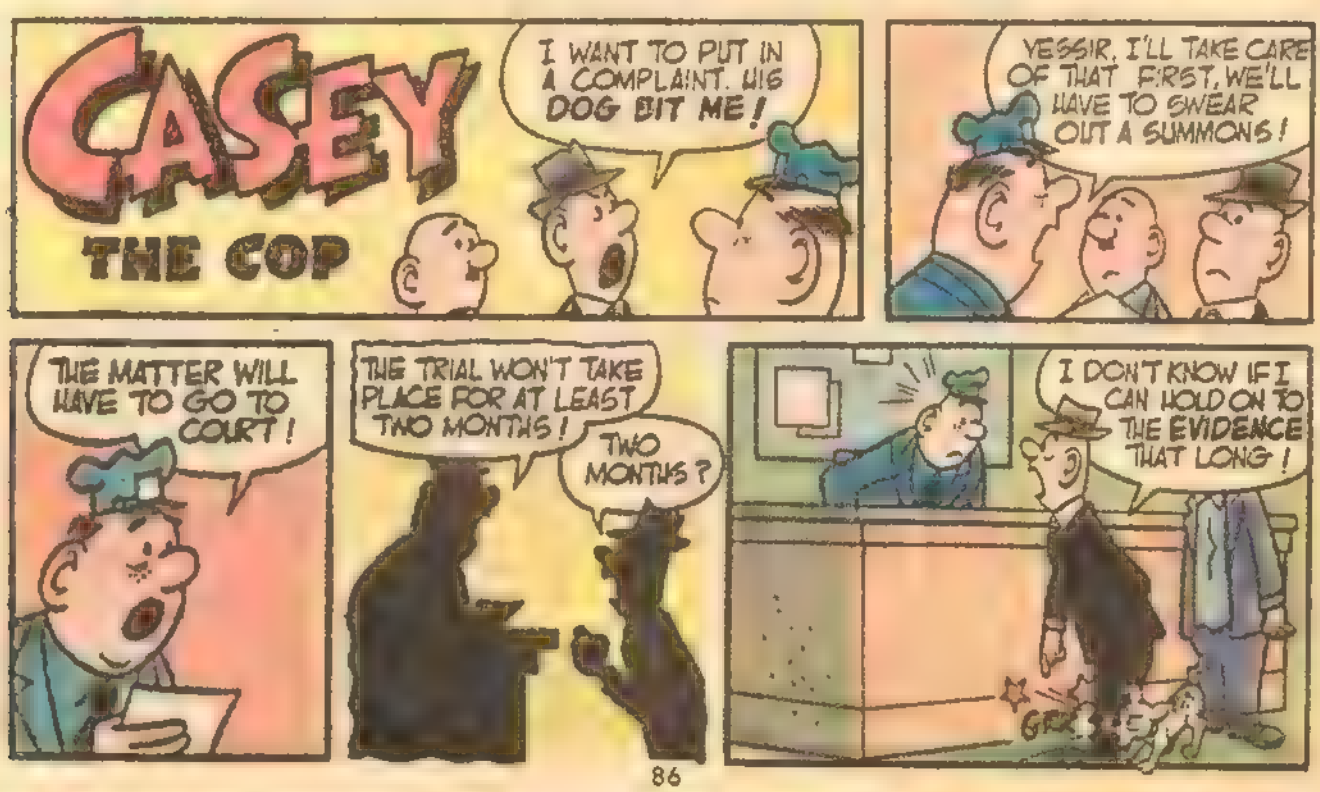

YOU DIDN'T KNOW, BUT THEIR MASKED FOREHEADS WERE COATED WITH AN INVISIBLE BUT HARMLESS, RADIOACTIVE POWDER.
NOW SOME RADIOACTIVE POWDER WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DIAMOND, ENABLING BATMAN TO TRACK IT BACK TO GARVEY'S CACHE!


"AFTER YOU LEFT WITH LITTLE BATMAN, MY MODIFIED GEIGER-COUNTER LED ME STRAIGHT TO YOUR CACHE--A CLOCK! BUT WHEN I LOOKED INSIDE...
SHUCKS, ONLY THE DIAMOND'S HERE! MAYBE GARVEY HID EACH GEM IN A DIFFERENT SPOT!
COULD BE! TOO BAD GARVEY NEVER TALKED ABOUT THAT, OR WE'D HAVE HEARD IT THROUGH THE MICROPHONES WE PLANTED IN HIS HOUSE! BUT WE DID OVERHEAR HIS BANGLE BROTHERS ROBBERY PLANS -- SO LET'S GET OVER THERE!


WHEN YOU DIDN'T ARREST GARVEY RIGHT AWAY, I KNEW THE DIAMOND HADN'T LED YOU TO THE OTHER GEMS, SO I THOUGHT FAST, HOPING A RUBY MIGHT DO THE TRICK!
AN IDEA THAT FIZZLED! AND NOW YOU WON'T EVEN RECOVER THE REAL RUBY--BECAUSE IT WAS THE FAKE ONE THAT TOUCHED THE RADIO-ACTIVE POWDER!


BUT BATMAN'S UNIQUE GEIGER-COUNTER SOON BELIES GARVEY'S BELIEF.
YOU FORGOT THAT YOU LATER HELD THEM BOTH IN THE SAME HAND - SO POWDER FROM THE FAKE RUBBED OFF ON THE REAL RUBY--AND HERE IT IS--INSIDE THIS TELE-PHONE!
BUT YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE THE REST OF THE COLLECTION IS, BATMAN! HA! HA! YOU STILL HAVEN'T OUT-SMARTED ED "NUMBERS" GARVEY!
CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!

FOR A MOMENT, BATMAN STARES THOUGHTFULLY-- AS HIS KEEN EYES SEARCH THE ROOM! THEN HE MAKES HIS MOVE...
IF I'M RIGHT, THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER GEM HIDDEN INSIDE THIS TYPEWRITER-- SURE ENOUGH, HERE IT IS!
HOW ON EARTH DID YOU KNOW?
THE CLOCK--THE TELEPHONE--HAVE NUMBERS--SO I TRIED THE TYPEWRITER, WHICH HAS NUMBERS ON SOME KEYS! MY HUNCH PAID OFF-- THE KEY TO GARVEY'S CACHES IS HIS NICKNAME-- "NUMBERS"!
CONTINUING HIS SEARCH, BATMAN SOON RECOVERS EACH GEM OF THE COLLECTION FROM ITS NUMBERED HIDING PLACE...
HOLLOW IN DESK CALENDAR
NUMBER ON FRONT DOOR
ALGEBRA
CUTOUT IN A DUMMY ALGEBRA BOOK
AND AFTERWARD, GARVEY AT LAST REALIZES HIS NUMBER HAS FINALLY COME UP!
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE GOING TO BE CACHED AWAY, TOO--IN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIKE YOU ALWAYS WEAR NUMBERS--PRISON NUMBERS!
The End


CASEY
THE COP
I WANT TO PUT IN A COMPLAINT. HIS DOG BIT ME!
YESSIR, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT FIRST. WE'LL HAVE TO SWEAR OUT A SUMMONS!
THE MATTER WILL HAVE TO GO TO COURT!
THE TRIAL WON'T TAKE PLACE FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS!
TWO MONTHS?
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN HOLD ON TO THE EVIDENCE THAT LONG!

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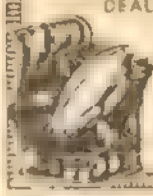

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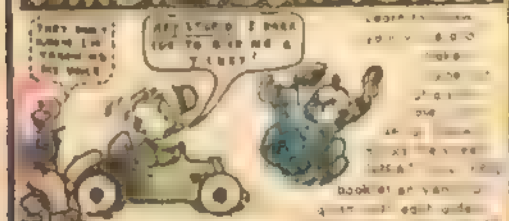

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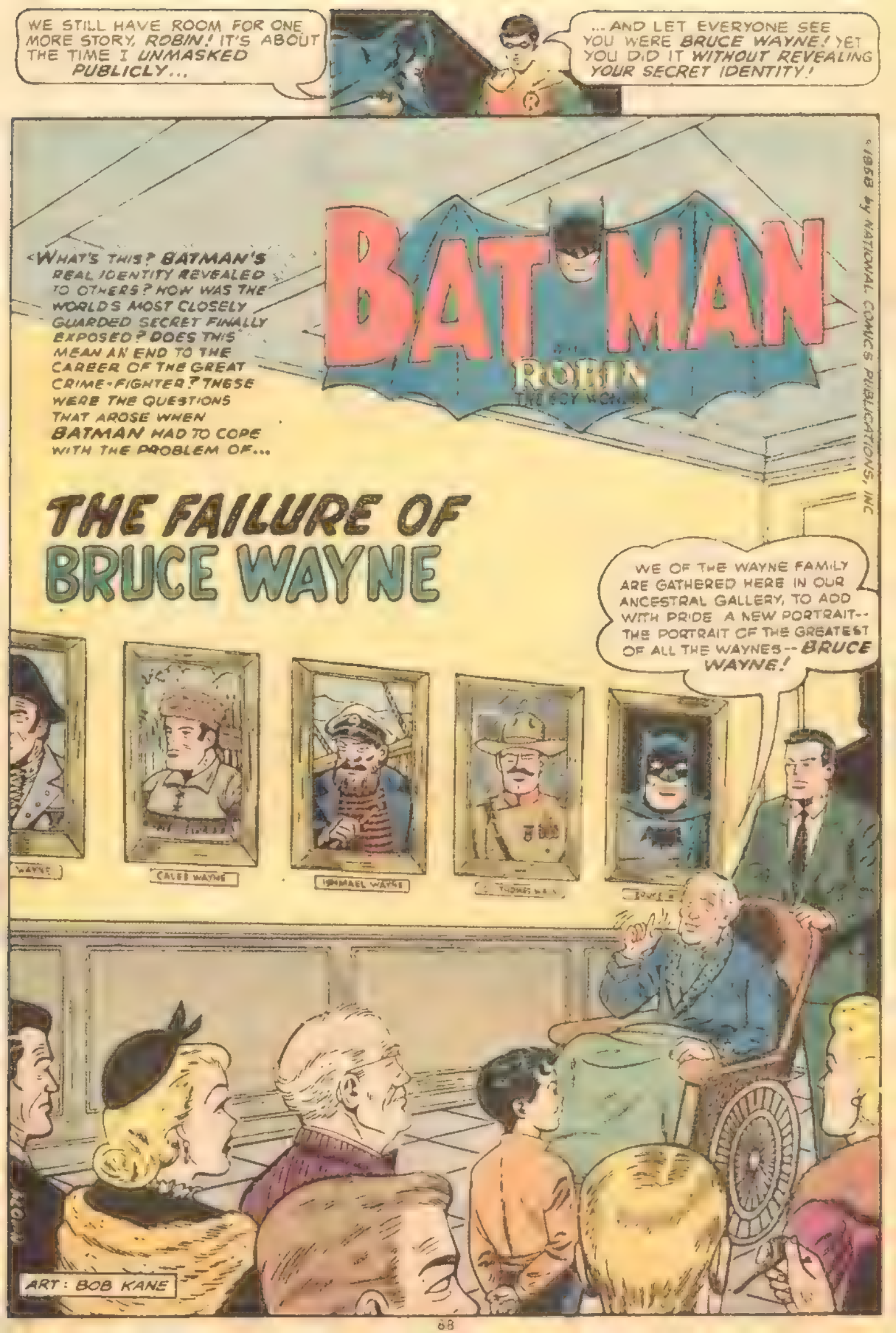
WE STILL HAVE ROOM FOR ONE MORE STORY, ROBIN! IT'S ABOUT THE TIME I UNMASKED PUBLICLY...
...AND LET EVERYONE SEE YOU WERE BRUCE WAYNE! YET YOU DID IT WITHOUT REVEALING YOUR SECRET IDENTITY!
BATMAN
ROBIN
<WHAT'S THIS? BATMAN'S REAL IDENTITY REVEALED TO OTHERS? HOW WAS THE WORLD'S MOST CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET FINALLY EXPOSED? DOES THIS MEAN AN END TO THE CAREER OF THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER? THESE WERE THE QUESTIONS THAT AROSE WHEN BATMAN HAD TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM OF...
THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE
WE OF THE WAYNE FAMILY ARE GATHERED HERE IN OUR ANCESTRAL GALLERY, TO ADD WITH PRIDE A NEW PORTRAIT-- THE PORTRAIT OF THE GREATEST OF ALL THE WAYNES-- BRUCE WAYNE!
CALEB WAYNE
ART: BOB KANE

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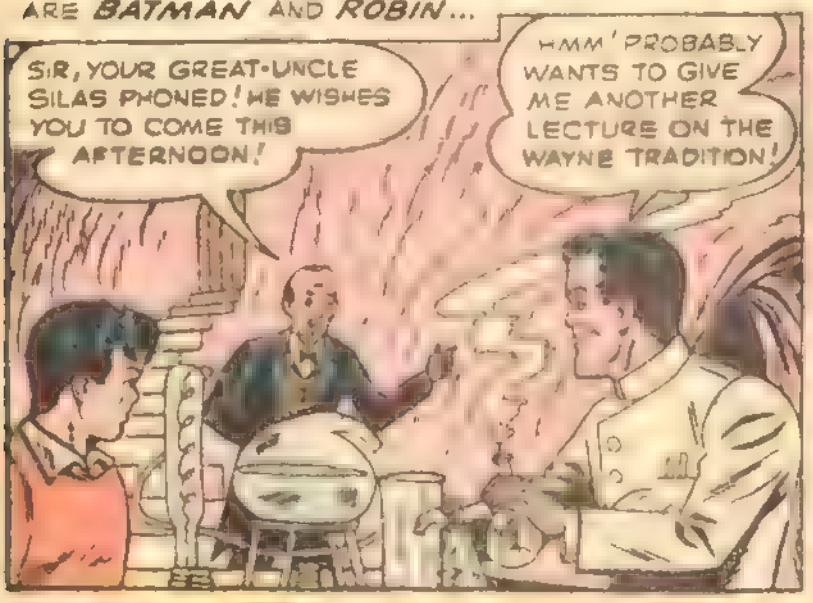
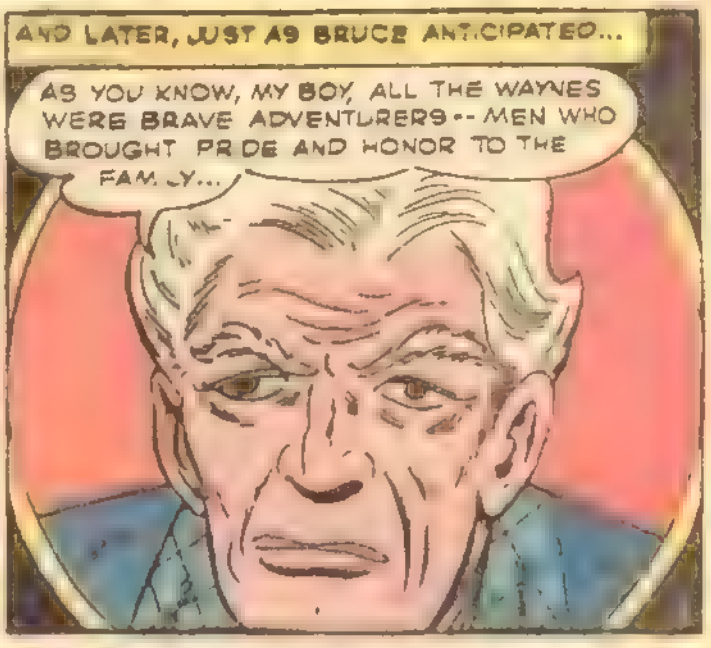
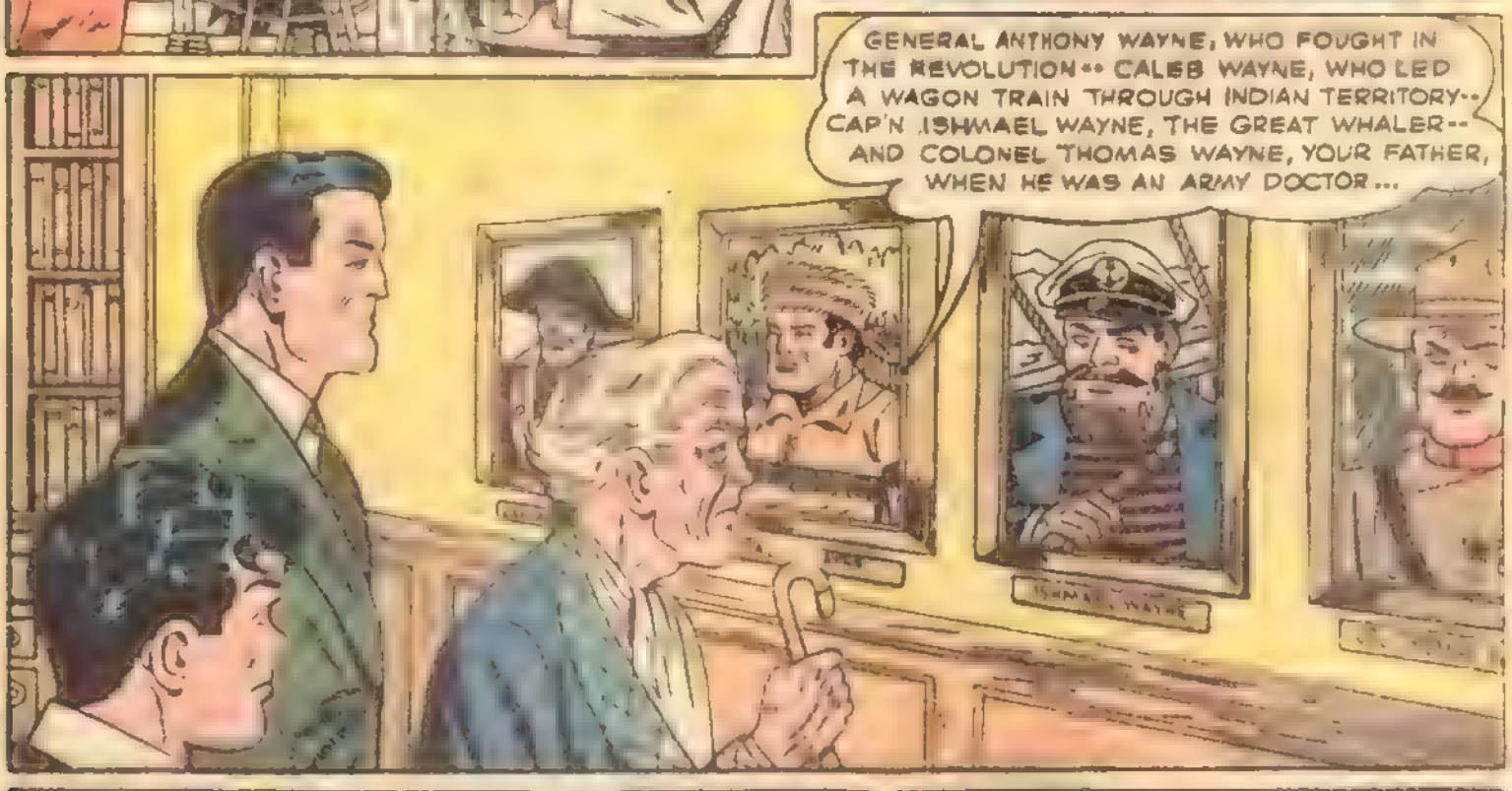
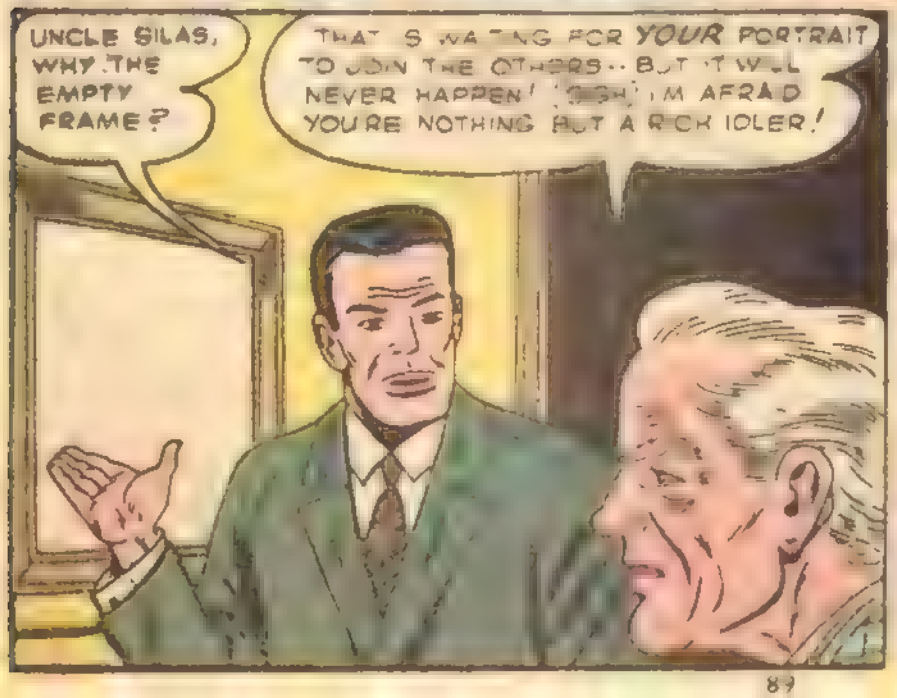
THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE

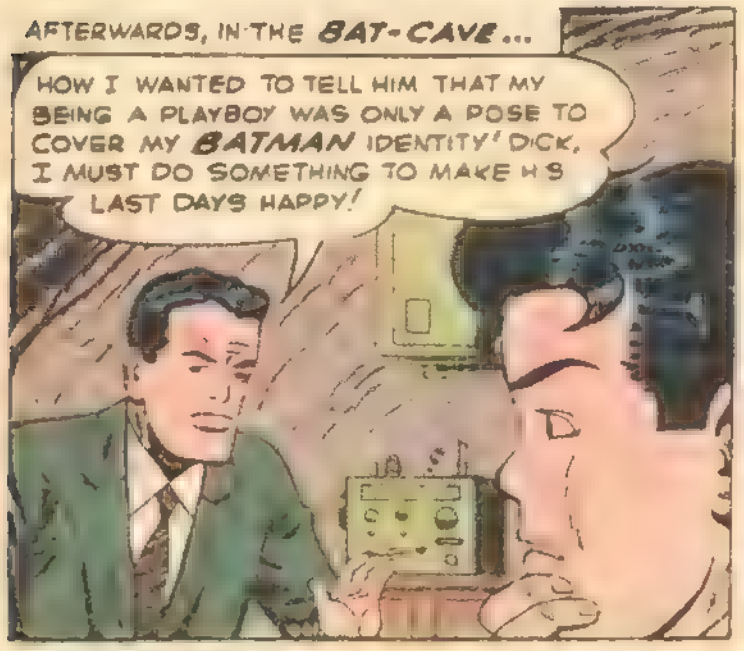
IN THE *BAT-CAVE* ONE MORNING, BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON ARE INTERRUPTED BY THEIR BUTLER, ALFRED, THE ONLY LIVING MAN TO KNOW THEY ARE *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*...

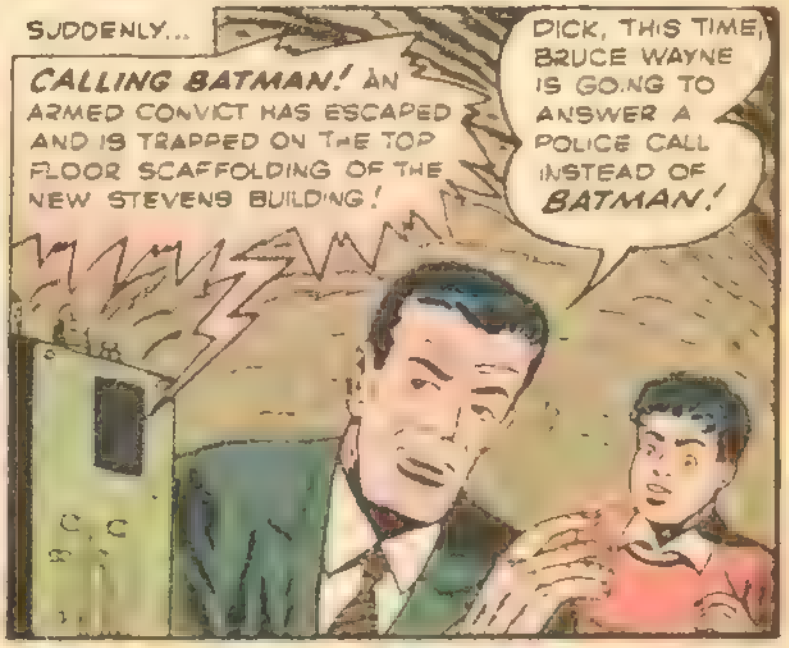

SIR, YOUR GREAT-UNCLE SILAS PHONED! HE WISHES YOU TO COME THIS AFTERNOON!
HMM! PROBABLY WANTS TO GIVE ME ANOTHER LECTURE ON THE WAYNE TRADITION!


AND LATER, JUST AS BRUCE ANTICIPATED...
AS YOU KNOW, MY BOY, ALL THE WAYNES WERE BRAVE ADVENTURERS -- MEN WHO BROUGHT PRIDE AND HONOR TO THE FAMILY...

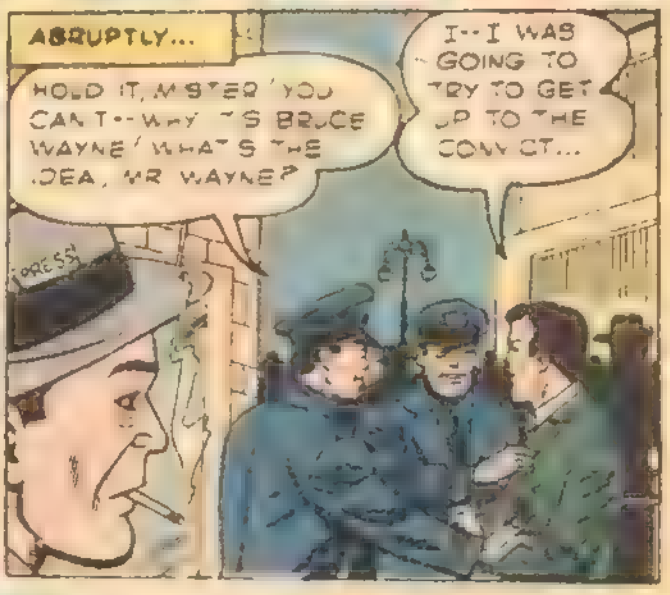

GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE, WHO FOUGHT IN THE REVOLUTION -- CALEB WAYNE, WHO LED A WAGON TRAIN THROUGH INDIAN TERRITORY -- CAP'N ISHMAEL WAYNE, THE GREAT WHALER -- AND COLONEL THOMAS WAYNE, YOUR FATHER, WHEN HE WAS AN ARMY DOCTOR...

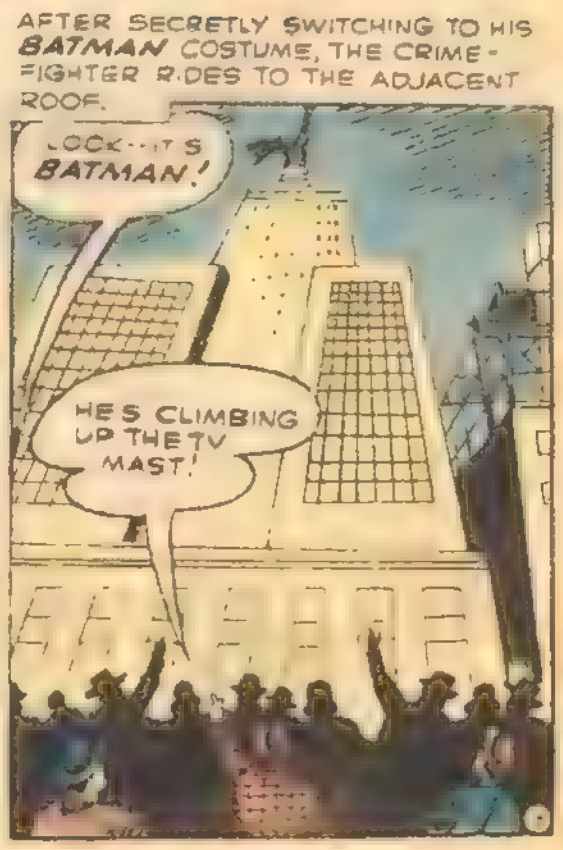

UNCLE SILAS, WHY THE EMPTY FRAME?
THAT'S WAITING FOR *YOUR* PORTRAIT TO JOIN THE OTHERS -- BUT IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN! SIGH! I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A RICH IDLER!

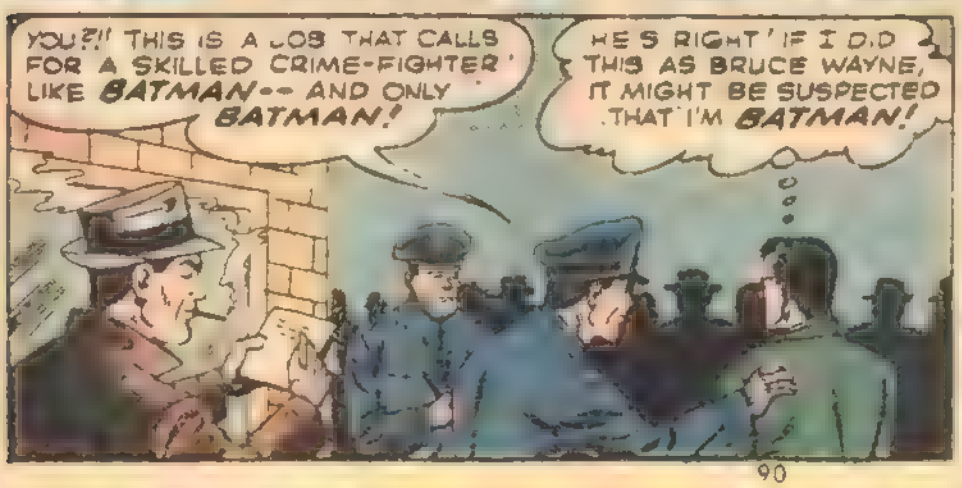

AFTERWARDS, IN THE BAT-CAVE...
HOW I WANTED TO TELL HIM THAT MY BEING A PLAYBOY WAS ONLY A POSE TO COVER MY BATMAN IDENTITY! DICK, I MUST DO SOMETHING TO MAKE HIS LAST DAYS HAPPY!


SUDDENLY...
CALLING BATMAN! AN ARMED CONVICT HAS ESCAPED AND IS TRAPPED ON THE TOP FLOOR SCAFFOLDING OF THE NEW STEVENS BUILDING!
DICK, THIS TIME, BRUCE WAYNE IS GOING TO ANSWER A POLICE CALL INSTEAD OF BATMAN!

AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE...
OFFICER, I'M A REPORTER! ISN'T THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN REACH THE CONVICT?
NO! HE JAMMED THE ELEVATOR! THAT'S WHY WE NEED BATMAN! MAYBE HE CAN SWING ACROSS FROM THE TV MAST OF THE STATE BUILDING!

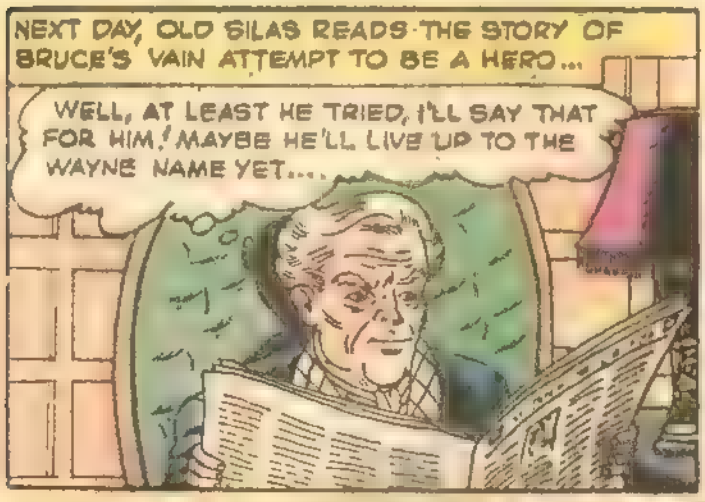

ABRUPTLY...
HOLD IT, MISTER! YOU CAN'T--WHY IT'S BRUCE WAYNE! WHAT'S THE IDEA, MR WAYNE?
I--I WAS GOING TO TRY TO GET UP TO THE CONVICT...

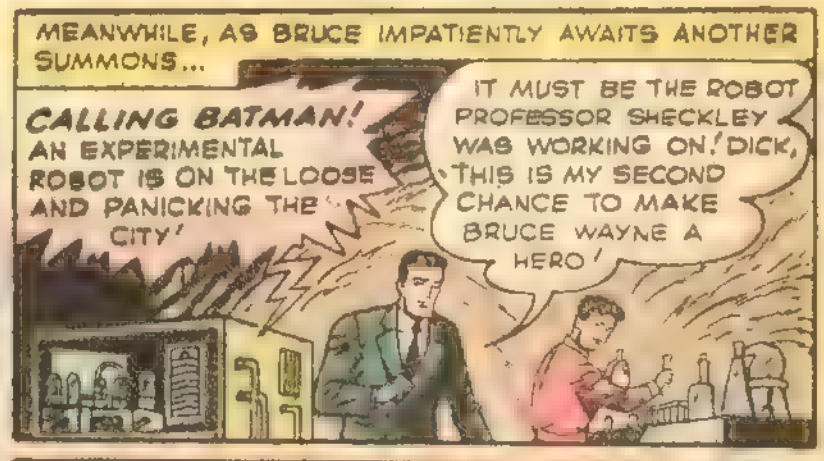

AFTER SECRETLY SWITCHING TO HIS BATMAN COSTUME, THE CRIME-FIGHTER RIDES TO THE ADJACENT ROOF.
LOOK--IT'S BATMAN!
HE'S CLIMBING UP THE TV MAST!

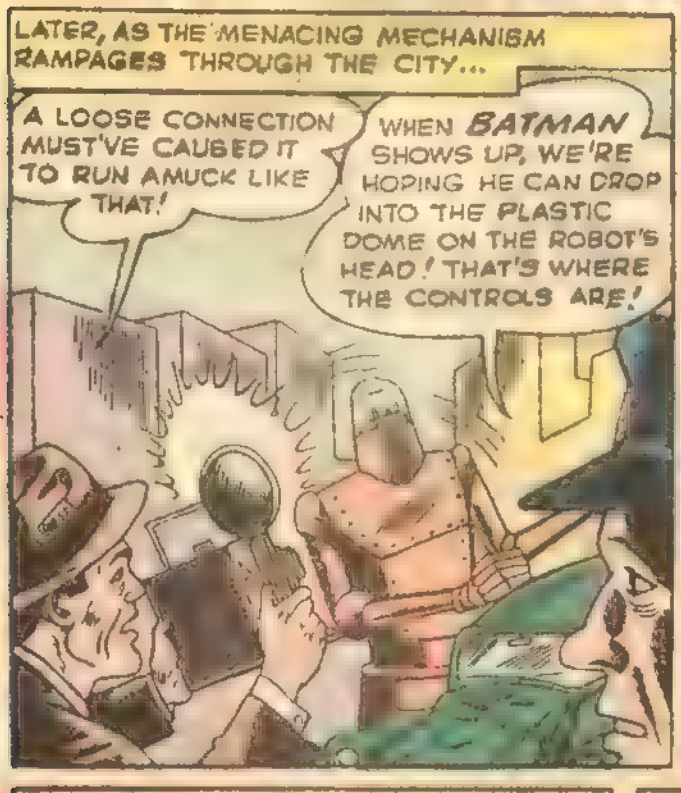

YOU?! THIS IS A JOB THAT CALLS FOR A SKILLED CRIME-FIGHTER! LIKE BATMAN-- AND ONLY BATMAN!
HE'S RIGHT! IF I DID THIS AS BRUCE WAYNE, IT MIGHT BE SUSPECTED THAT I'M BATMAN!

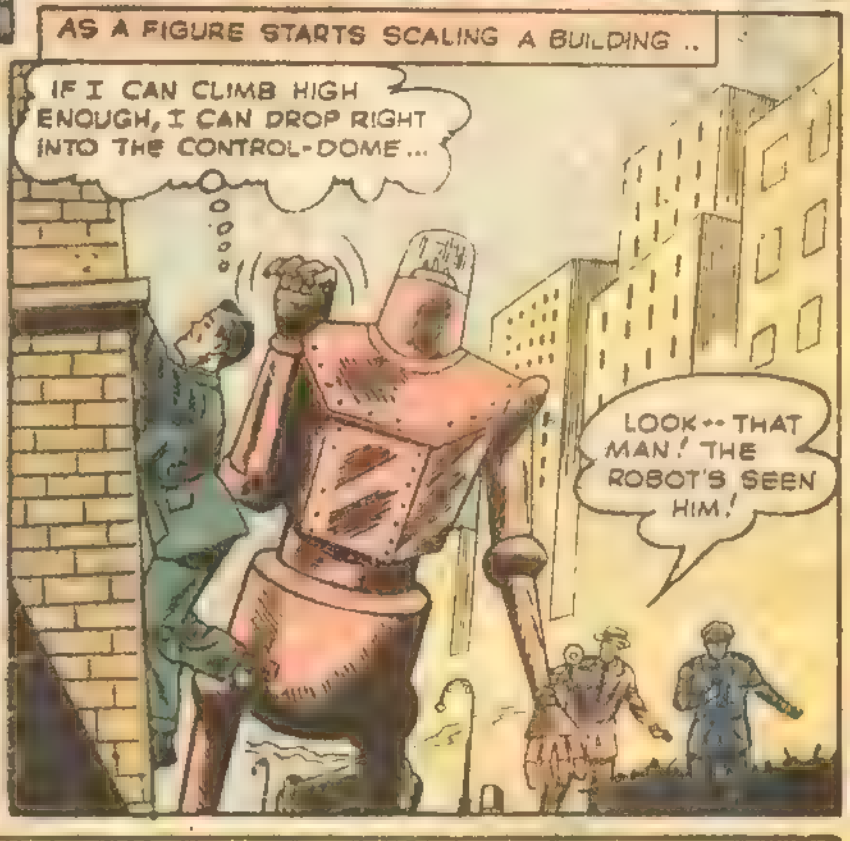
THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE

FROM HIS PRECARIOUS PERCH, THE FEAR-MADDENED CONVICT SIGHTS THE CAPED FIGURE...
BATMAN, EH? HE'S NOT GONNA TAKE ME IN!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BUT THE ACRO BATMAN INSTANTLY FLIPS HIS SUPERBLY TRAINED BODY UPWARD...
ZIP
BANG!
ZIP
BANG!
BANG!
REACHING THE TOP OF THE TV MAST, BATMAN HURLS HIS SILKEN LASSO...
...AND SWINGS ACROSS YAWNING SPACE...
THIS WILL QUIET YOU TILL I PICK YOU UP ON THE RIDE BACK!
I WISH BRUCE WAYNE WERE GETTING THE CREDIT FOR THIS SO UNCLE SILAS WOULD KNOW I'M CARRYING ON THE FAMILY TRADITION!
4

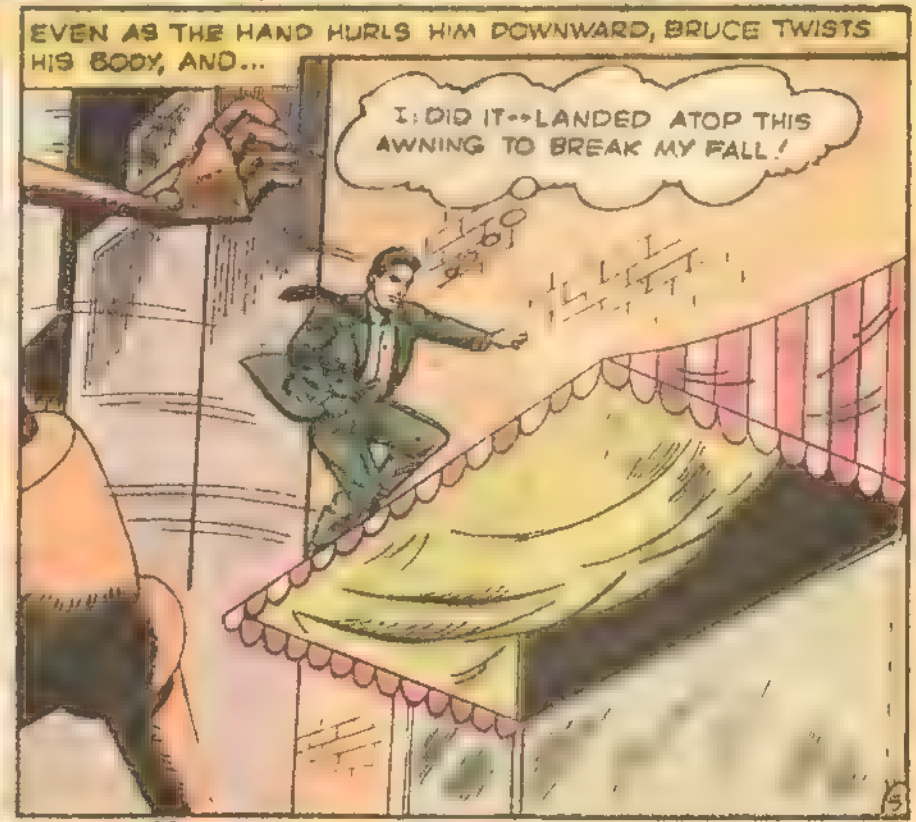

NEXT DAY, OLD SILAS READS THE STORY OF BRUCE'S VAIN ATTEMPT TO BE A HERO...
WELL, AT LEAST HE TRIED, I'LL SAY THAT FOR HIM! MAYBE HE'LL LIVE UP TO THE WAYNE NAME YET....


MEANWHILE, AS BRUCE IMPATIENTLY AWAITS ANOTHER SUMMONS...
CALLING BATMAN! AN EXPERIMENTAL ROBOT IS ON THE LOOSE AND PANICKING THE CITY!
IT MUST BE THE ROBOT PROFESSOR SHECKLEY WAS WORKING ON! DICK, THIS IS MY SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE BRUCE WAYNE A HERO!

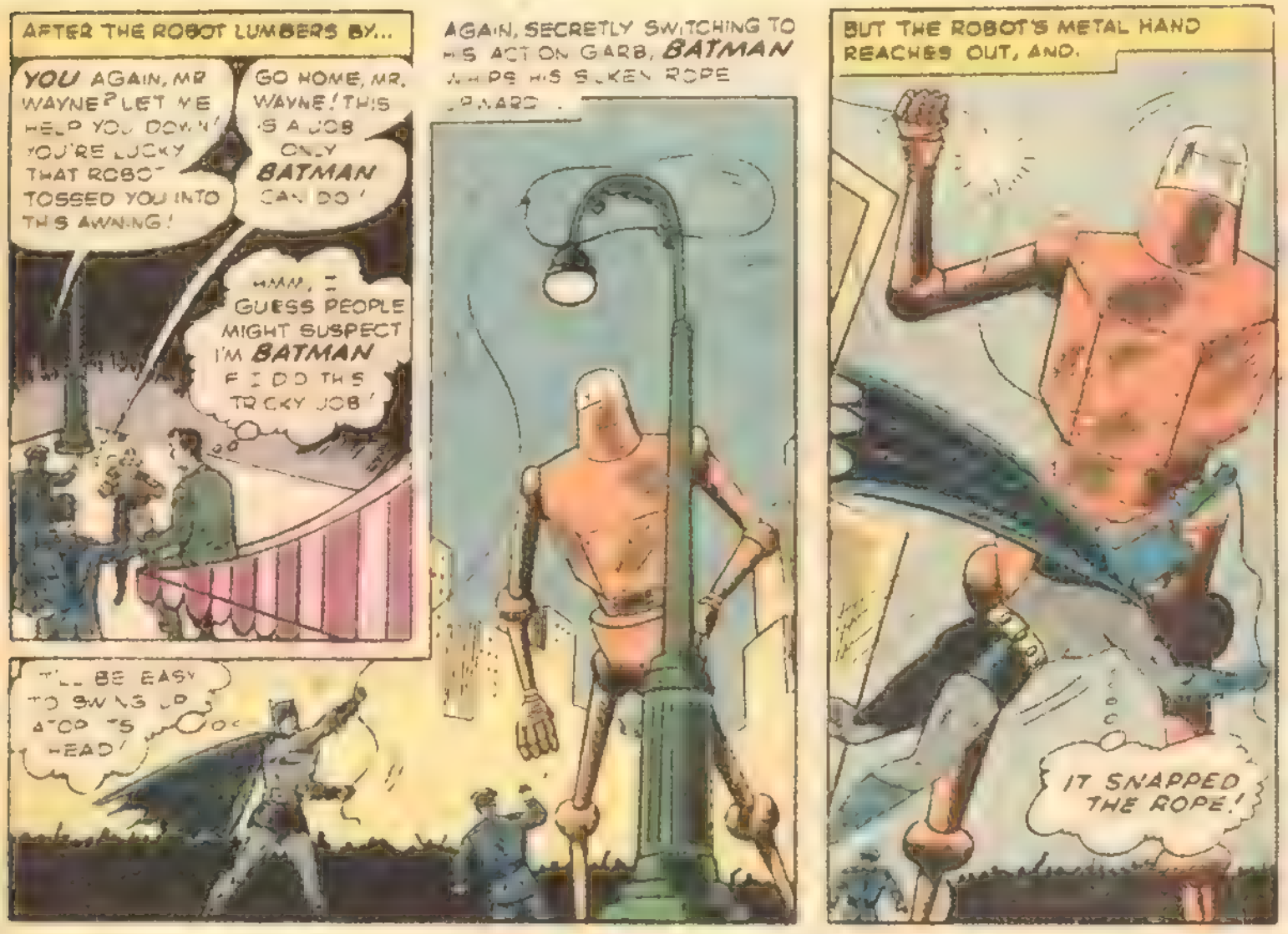

LATER, AS THE MENACING MECHANISM RAMPAGES THROUGH THE CITY...
A LOOSE CONNECTION MUST'VE CAUSED IT TO RUN AMUCK LIKE THAT!
WHEN BATMAN SHOWS UP, WE'RE HOPING HE CAN DROP INTO THE PLASTIC DOME ON THE ROBOT'S HEAD! THAT'S WHERE THE CONTROLS ARE!

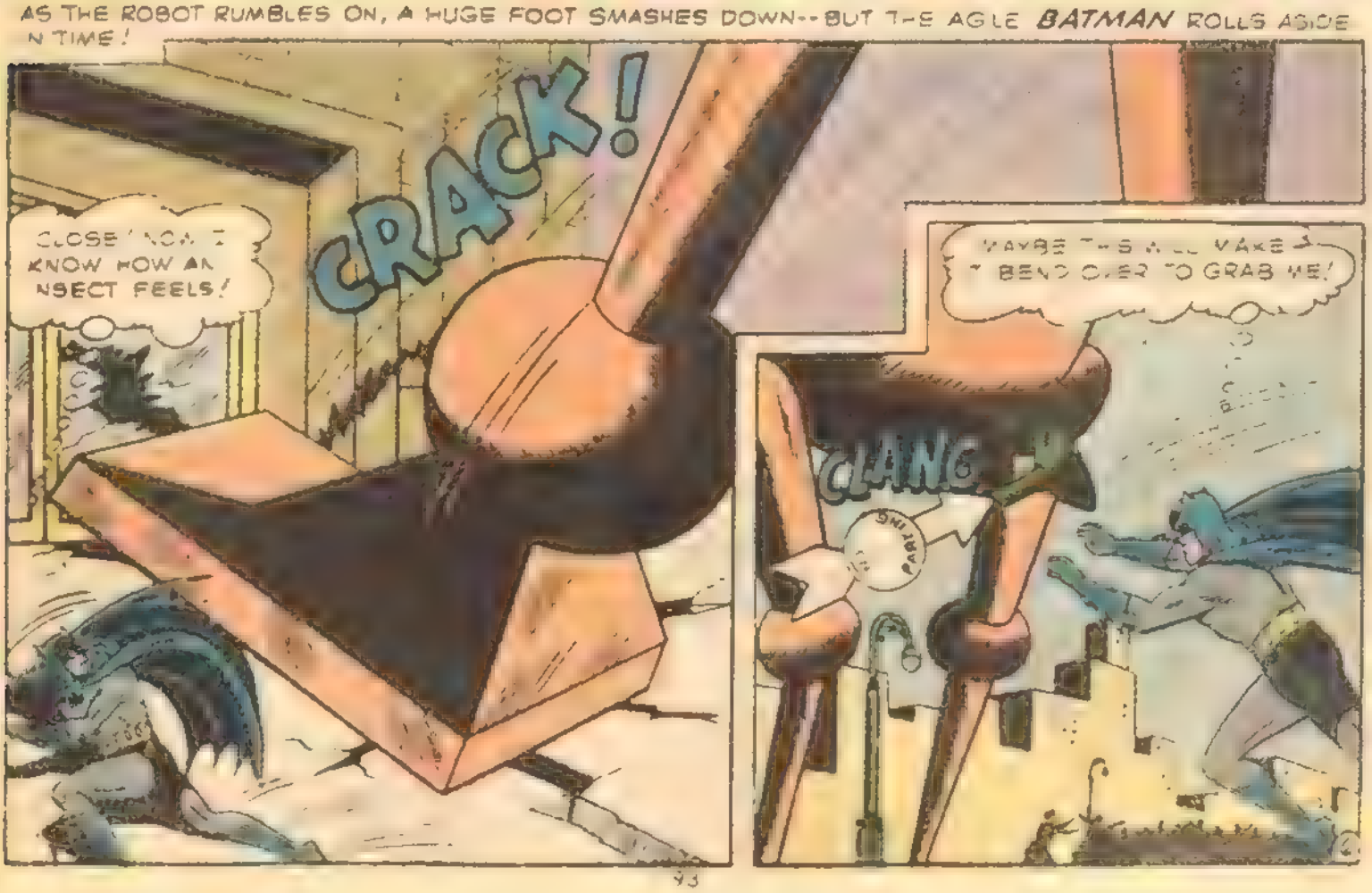

AS A FIGURE STARTS SCALING A BUILDING ..
IF I CAN CLIMB HIGH ENOUGH, I CAN DROP RIGHT INTO THE CONTROL-DOME...
LOOK -- THAT MAN! THE ROBOT'S SEEN HIM!

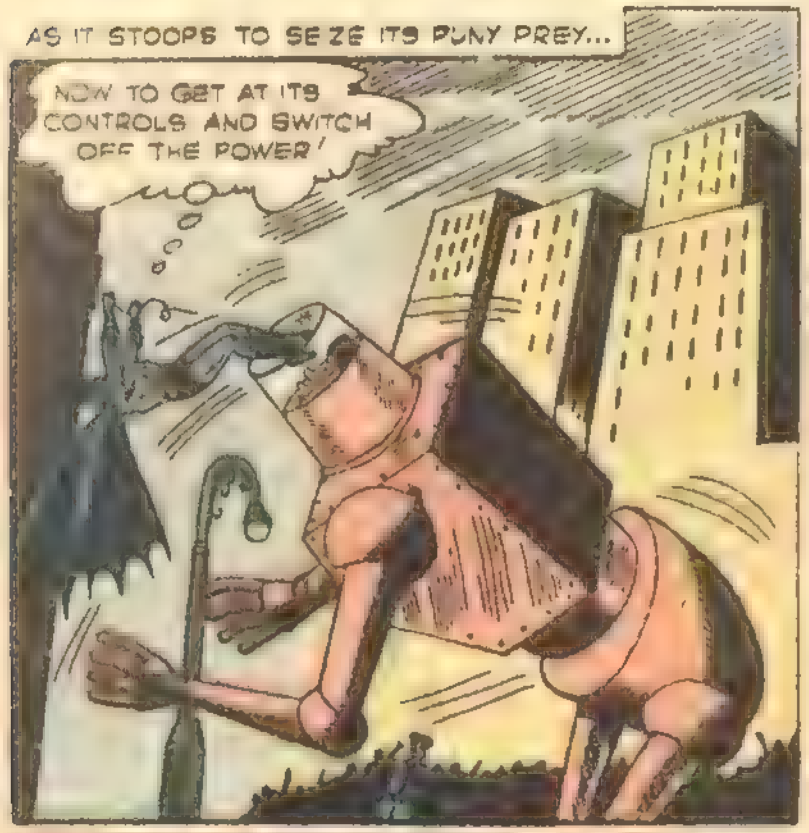
AN IRON HAND REACHES OUT -- AND CLOSES LIKE A VISE!
UH-OH!


EVEN AS THE HAND HURLS HIM DOWNWARD, BRUCE TWISTS HIS BODY, AND...
I DID IT -- LANDED ATOP THIS AWNING TO BREAK MY FALL!

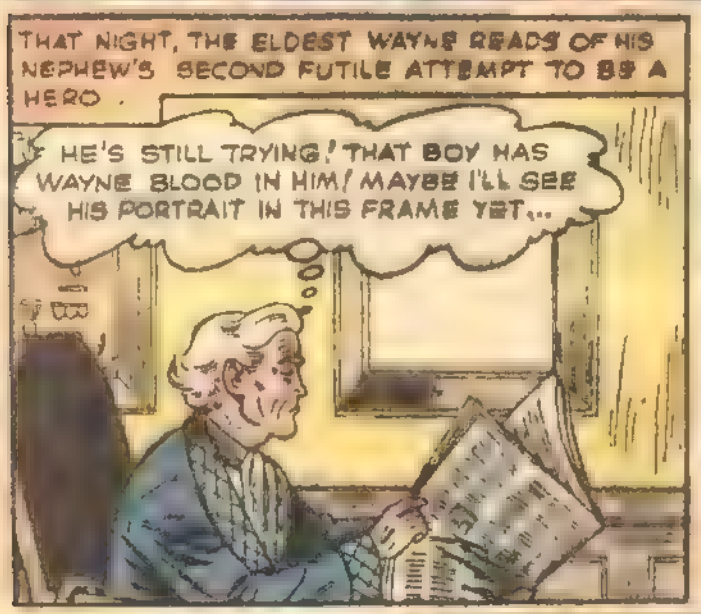
THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE

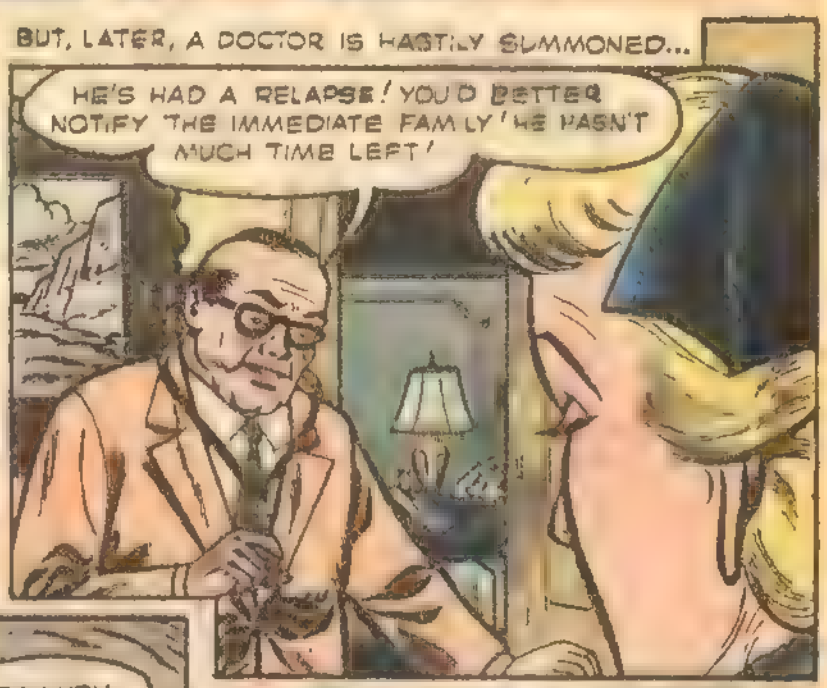

AFTER THE ROBOT LUMBERS BY...
YOU AGAIN, MR WAYNE? LET ME HELP YOU DOWN! YOU'RE LUCKY THAT ROBOT TOSSED YOU INTO THIS AWNING!
GO HOME, MR. WAYNE! THIS IS A JOB ONLY BATMAN CAN DO!
HMM, I GUESS PEOPLE MIGHT SUSPECT I'M BATMAN IF I DID THIS TRICKY JOB!
AGAIN, SECRETLY SWITCHING TO HIS ACTION GARB, BATMAN WHIPS HIS SILKEN ROPE UPWARD.
IT'LL BE EASY TO SWING UP AND CONK HIS HEAD!
BUT THE ROBOT'S METAL HAND REACHES OUT, AND.
IT SNAPPED THE ROPE!

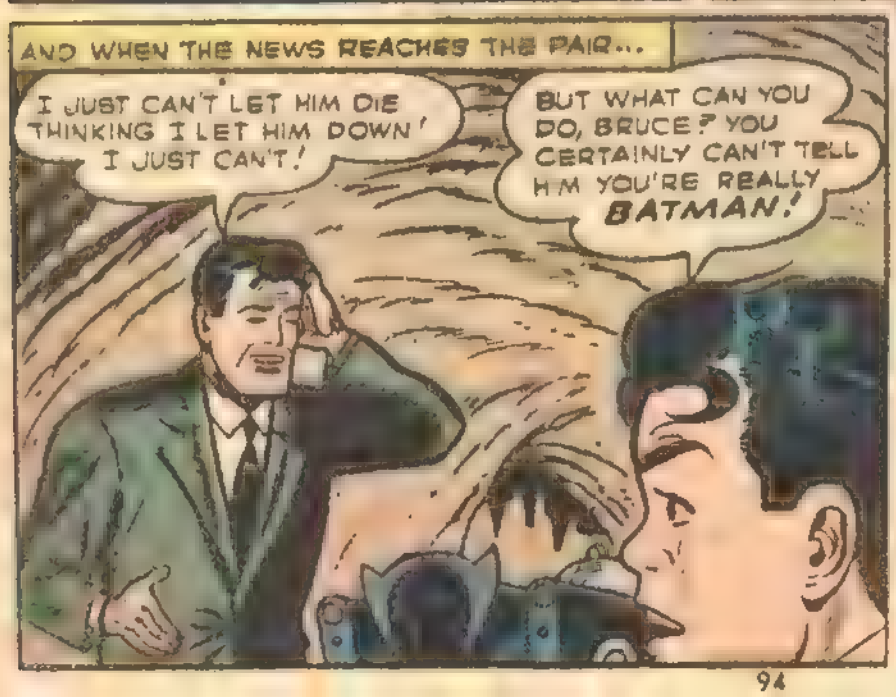

AS THE ROBOT RUMBLES ON, A HUGE FOOT SMASHES DOWN--BUT THE AGILE BATMAN ROLLS ASIDE IN TIME!
CRACK!
CLOSE! NOW I KNOW HOW AN INSECT FEELS!
MAYBE THIS WILL MAKE IT BEND OVER TO GRAB ME!
CLANG
SNAP


AS IT STOOPS TO SEIZE ITS PUNY PREY...
NOW TO GET AT ITS CONTROLS AND SWITCH OFF THE POWER!

AGAIN, BATMAN SUCCEEDED-- BUT BRUCE WAYNE IS STILL A FAILURE AS FAR AS UNCLE SILAS IS CONCERNED!

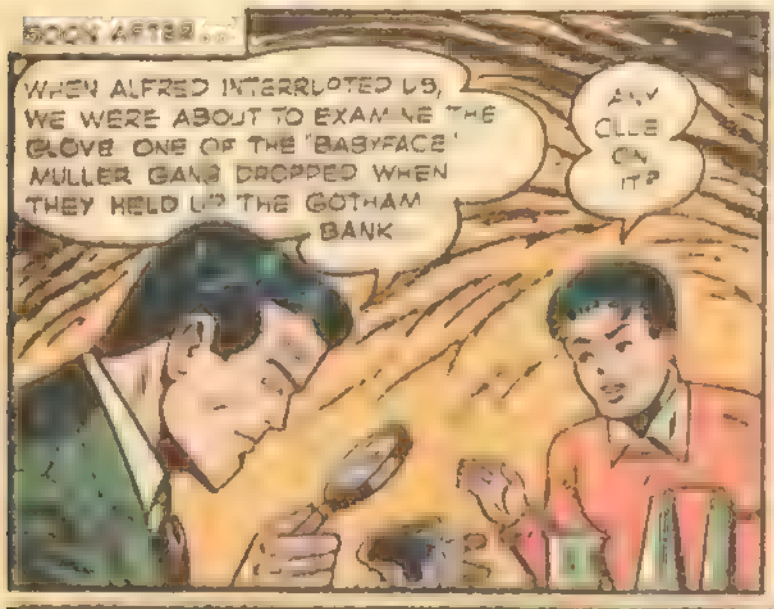

THAT NIGHT, THE ELDEST WAYNE READS OF HIS NEPHEW'S SECOND FUTILE ATTEMPT TO BE A HERO.
HE'S STILL TRYING! THAT BOY HAS WAYNE BLOOD IN HIM! MAYBE I'LL SEE HIS PORTRAIT IN THIS FRAME YET...

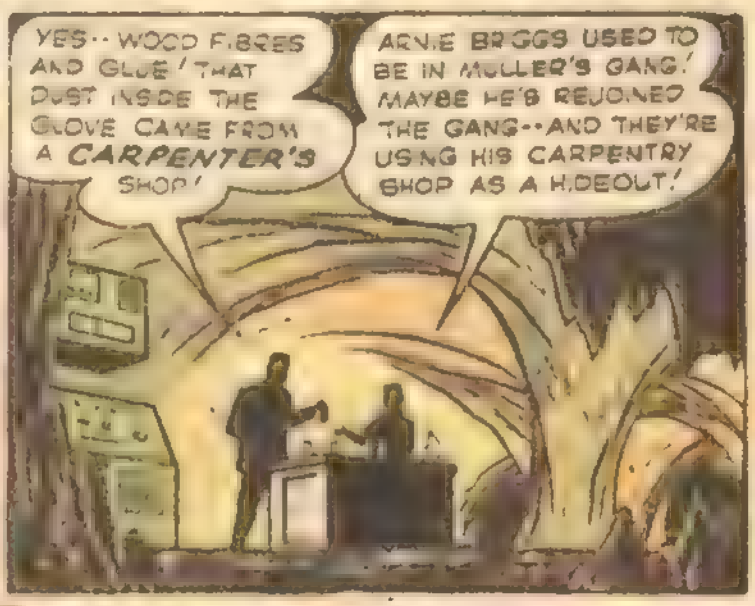

BUT, LATER, A DOCTOR IS HASTILY SUMMONED...
HE'S HAD A RELAPSE! YOU'D BETTER NOTIFY THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY! HE HASN'T MUCH TIME LEFT!

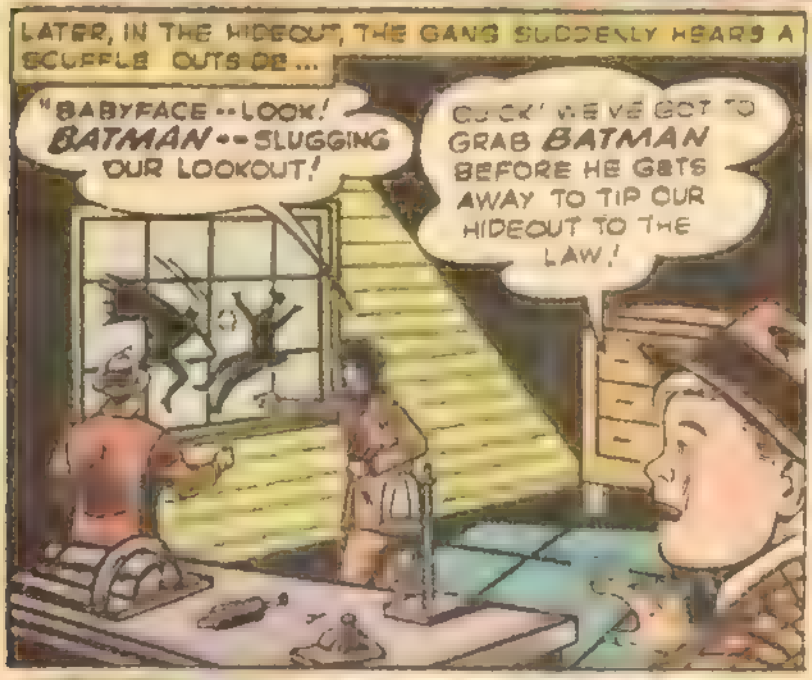

AND WHEN THE NEWS REACHES THE PAIR...
I JUST CAN'T LET HIM DIE THINKING I LET HIM DOWN! I JUST CAN'T!
BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO, BRUCE? YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T TELL HIM YOU'RE REALLY BATMAN!

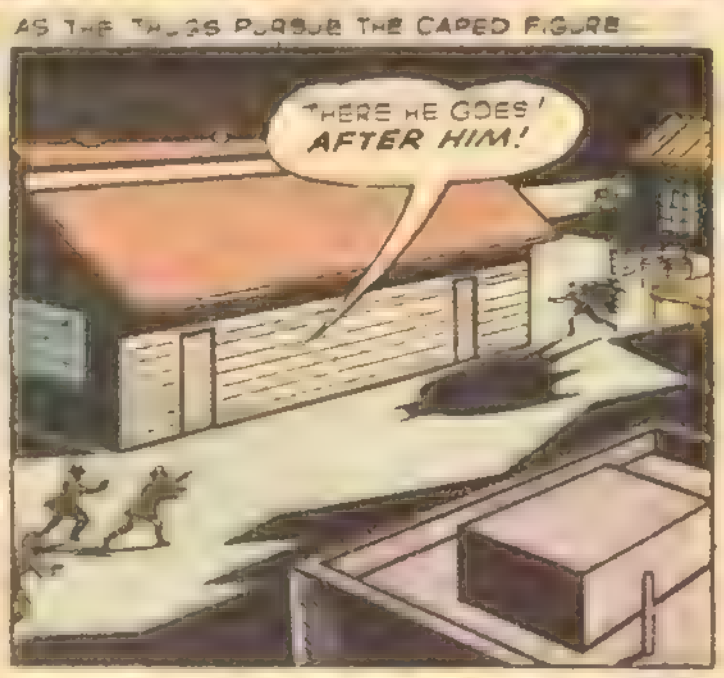
DICK-- MAYBE THAT'S JUST WHAT I WILL DO!

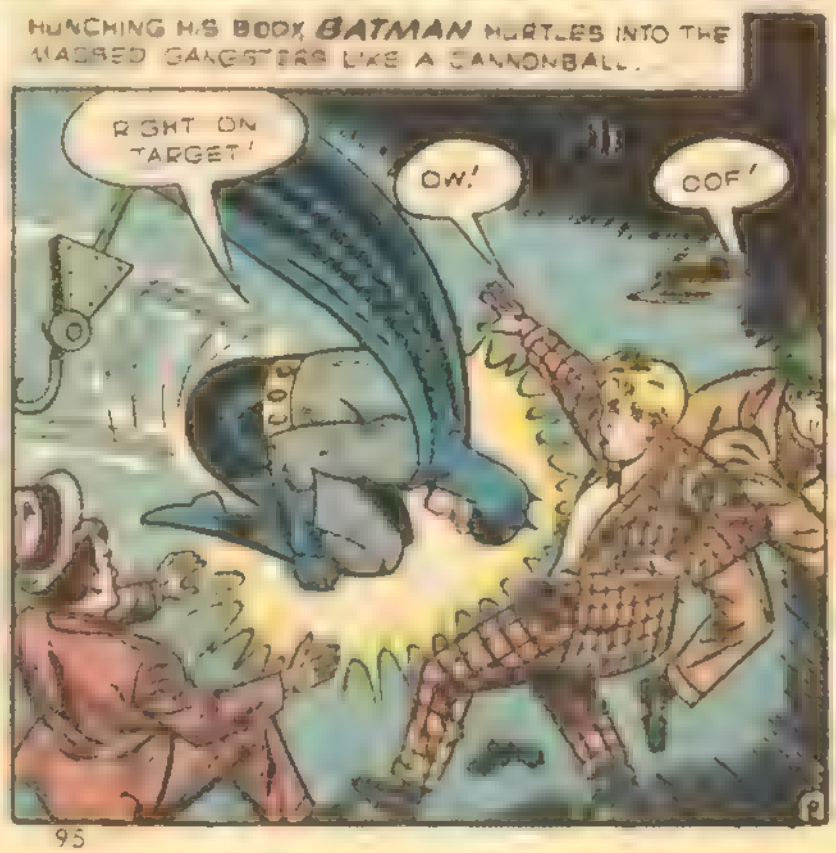
THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE


SOON AFTER...
WHEN ALFRED INTERRUPTED US, WE WERE ABOUT TO EXAMINE THE GLOVE ONE OF THE 'BABYFACE' MULLER GANG DROPPED WHEN THEY HELD UP THE GOTHAM BANK
ANY CLUE ON IT?

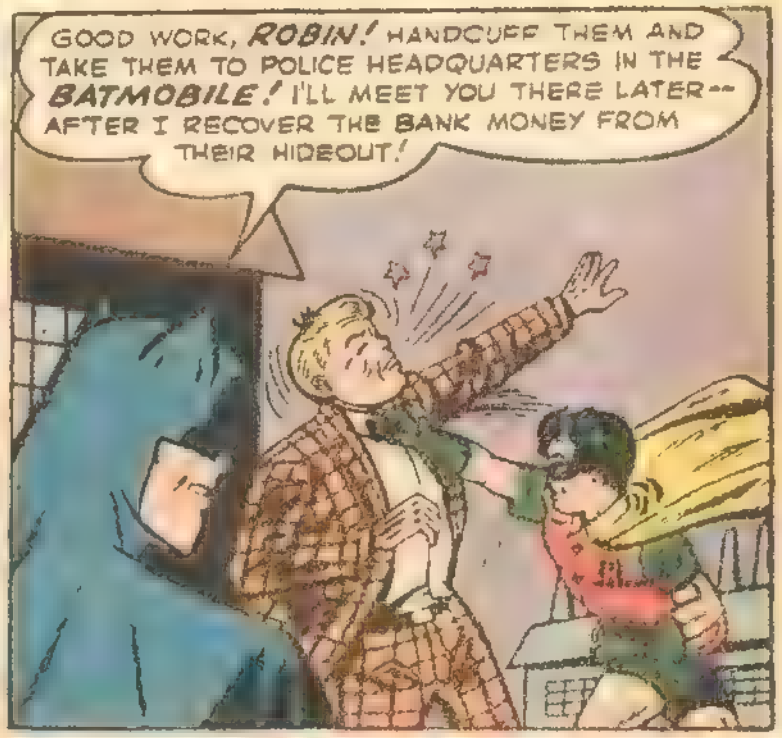

YES.. WOOD FIBRES AND GLUE! THAT DUST INSIDE THE GLOVE CAME FROM A CARPENTER'S SHOP!
ARNIE BRIGGS USED TO BE IN MULLER'S GANG! MAYBE HE'S REJOINED THE GANG--AND THEY'RE USING HIS CARPENTRY SHOP AS A HIDEOUT!

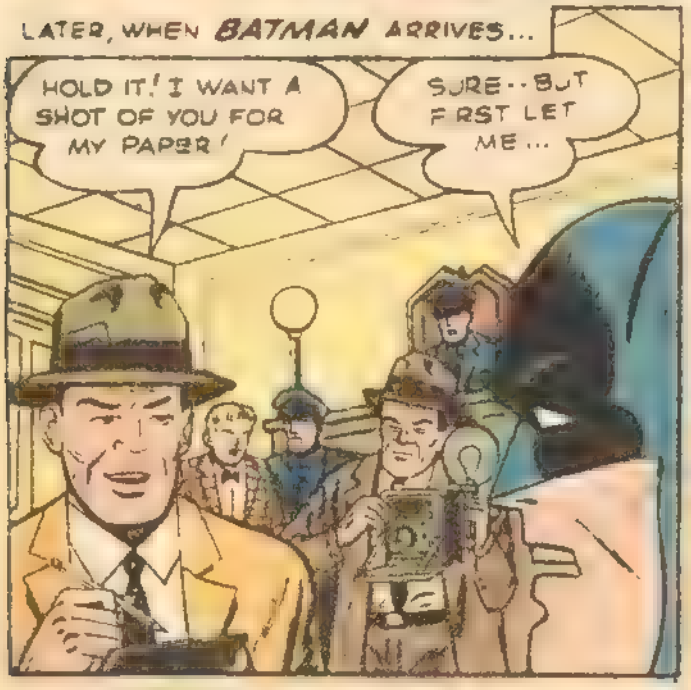

LATER, IN THE HIDEOUT, THE GANG SUDDENLY HEARS A SCUFFLE OUTSIDE...
"BABYFACE--LOOK! BATMAN--SLUGGING OUR LOOKOUT!
QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO GRAB BATMAN BEFORE HE GETS AWAY TO TIP OUR HIDEOUT TO THE LAW!



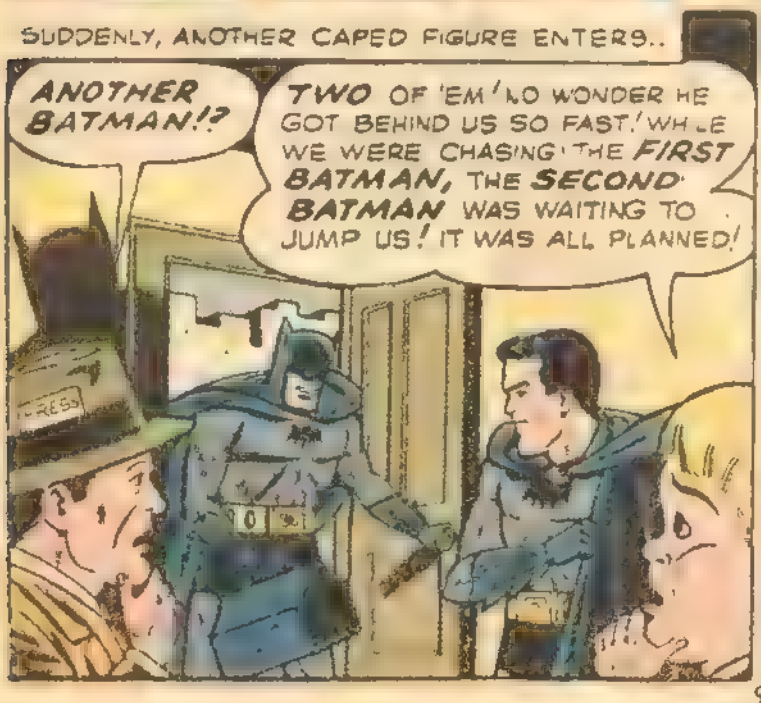


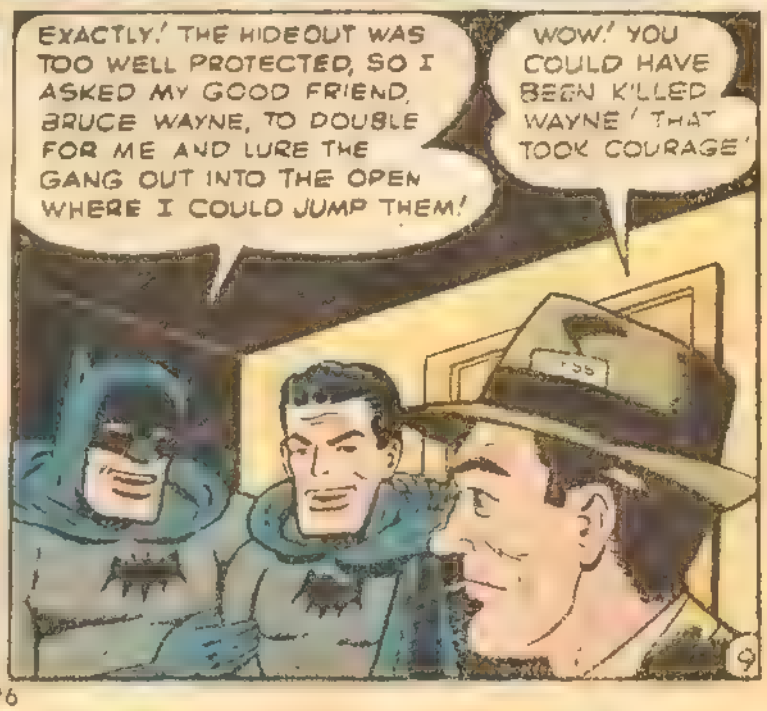
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ME!


GOOD WORK, ROBIN! HANDCUFF THEM AND TAKE THEM TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN THE BATMOBILE! I'LL MEET YOU THERE LATER-- AFTER I RECOVER THE BANK MONEY FROM THEIR HIDEOUT!


LATER, WHEN BATMAN ARRIVES...
HOLD IT! I WANT A SHOT OF YOU FOR MY PAPER!
SURE--BUT FIRST LET ME...

...REMOVE MY COWL!
WHA-AAT? BRUCE WAYNE!
BATMAN IS BRUCE WAYNE!


SUDDENLY, ANOTHER CAPED FIGURE ENTERS..
ANOTHER BATMAN!?
TWO OF 'EM! NO WONDER HE GOT BEHIND US SO FAST! WHILE WE WERE CHASING THE FIRST BATMAN, THE SECOND BATMAN WAS WAITING TO JUMP US! IT WAS ALL PLANNED!


EXACTLY! THE HIDEOUT WAS TOO WELL PROTECTED, SO I ASKED MY GOOD FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE, TO DOUBLE FOR ME AND LURE THE GANG OUT INTO THE OPEN WHERE I COULD JUMP THEM!
WOW! YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED WAYNE! THAT TOOK COURAGE!
9

LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE, THE SECOND BATMAN REMOVES MAKEUP AND A PADDED UNIFORM TO REVEAL HIMSELF AS ALFRED, THE BUTLER...

ALFRED, THE GANG NEVER SUSPECTED IT WAS YOU WHO LURED THEM OUT-- AND THEN ARRIVED AT HEADQUARTERS AFTER I DID!

QUITE SO, SIR! AND THE REPORTERS NEVER KNEW THEY SAW THE FACE OF THE REAL BATMAN AT HEADQUARTERS!

AND SO ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE WAYNE FAMILY GATHERS BEFORE A NEW PORTRAIT IN THE ANCESTRAL GALLERY...

BRUCE WAYNE--IN THE COSTUME HE WORE WHEN HE COURAGEOUSLY DOUBLED FOR THE REAL BATMAN!

BRUCE WAYNE

BUT WHEN THE REST OF THE FAMILY LEAVES, AND BRUCE WHEELS HIS UNCLE BACK TO BED...

BRUCE, MY BOY, YOU WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE-- JUST SO I COULD PUT THAT PORTRAIT OF YOU IN YOUR ACTION UNIFORM ALONGSIDE THOSE OF THE OTHER UNIFORMED WAYNES...

I KNEW THAT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY...

YES, BUT I'M EVEN HAPPIER THAT YOU TOLD ME YOUR SECRET IDENTITY BEFORE THE FAMILY ARRIVED! YOUR SECRET WILL DIE WITH ME, AND I'LL DIE PROUDLY KNOWING A WAYNE IS ACTUALLY THE GREATEST HERO OF OUR TIME--BATMAN!

THE END

10

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF Detective COMICS

No. 444 DEC.-JAN.

THE BATMAN
THE MURDERER

THE MASKED MANHUNTER A WANTED KILLER? THAT'S THE WAY IT IS IN THE NEW SHOCK-SERIES COMING IN THIS MAGAZINE! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS A SINGLE GRIPPING ISSUE!

TALIA
THE VICTIM

ALSO... YOU DEMANDED NEW TALES OF THE ELONGATED MAN! SO HERE HE COMES IN HIS LATEST PUZZLER-- "The MAGICAL MYSTERY MIRROR!"

SIERRA SMITH

PLUS OTHER STORIES OF MYSTERY! SUSPENSE! Starring--

KID ETERNITY

EXTRA: A GANGBUSTERS THRILLER!

Manhunters Around the World

ROY RAYMOND, TV DETECTIVE

ROBIN

ON SALE THE LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

DO YOU NEED EXTRA MONEY?

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE ASSORTMENT
18 selections featuring striking borders and silver glitter. 7 delicate, misty-toned designs.

It costs you nothing to try

$100.00 IS YOURS

GOLDEN WREATHS CHRISTMAS ASST.
24 embossed wreaths frame 6 different subjects: partridge, village, church, bells, sledding, old mill.

WINTER MAGIC CHRISTMAS ASST.
18 nostalgic creations with an artistic dusting of snowy glitter. 6 festive designs!

for selling only 100 boxes of our new Winter Magic Assortment. You make $1.00 for selling 1 box, $10.00 for 10 boxes, etc. These are exclusive card assortments—not sold in any store! You can make even more money showing our full-color catalog of marvelous gift and household items. A few dollars or hundreds of dollars—it's yours. Just call on neighbors, friends, and relatives in your spare time.

Cut out entire Postage-Paid Reply Coupon Below—mail it today

—and we will send you immediately, leading Greeting Card Box Assortments on approval—plus FREE album of personalized Christmas Cards. No experience necessary.

DELUXE CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP ASSORTMENT
Large, eye-catching sheets boasting holiday colors and designs!

Last year some folks made only $25 to $50 while others made $150—$250—$500 and more selling our entire line. Many church groups, organizations, schools, lodges, etc. do this year after year. Everybody buys greeting cards.

DELIGHTFUL ENSEMBLE ALL-OCCASION ASST.
32-piece selection plus color-coordinated envelopes. Large and small cards, and personal notes.

IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY

FREE FULL-COLOR CATALOG OF 400 CARD AND GIFT ITEMS

CUT OUT ENTIRE BUSINESS REPLY FORM BELOW
•
FILL IN COUPON FORM
FOLD OVER FIRMLY
SEAL (PASTE OR TAPE)
AND MAIL TODAY
•
No Stamp Necessary

5535A

BIG VALUE!
NOEL CHARMERS CHRISTMAS ASST.
18 warm greetings with Old World charm. 5 distinct scenes.

GUARANTEED AS ADVERTISED IN PARENTS' MAGAZINE

PLUS **FREE ALBUM** of PERSONALIZED CHRISTMAS CARDS

CHEERFUL HOUSE DIVISION OF BEVIS INDUSTRIES, INC. White Plains, N.Y. 10606

Cut Along Dotted Line-Seal (Paste or Tape) and Mail

THIS ENTIRE FOLD-OVER COUPON FORMS A NO-POSTAGE-REQUIRED BUSINESS REPLY CARD

CHEERFUL HOUSE, DEPT. F-13
White Plains, New York 10606

FREE CHRISTMAS CARD SAMPLE KIT

I want to make extra money. Please rush me immediately, your Christmas Greeting Card box assortments on approval for 30-day free trial, plus FREE Full-Color Catalog of money-making Gifts and Cards—everything I need to start making money the day my sales kit arrives. Sales kit may be returned without cost or obligation.

Check Here
☐ I would also like to continue to receive additional FREE money-making catalogs, literature, special offers PLUS Seasonal Samples on approval. I understand samples may be returned without cost or obligation.

Fill in your name and address below—No stamp necessary

☐ Mr.
☐ Mrs.
☐ Miss

Please Print

Address _____ Age _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ APT. NO. _____

If writing for an organization, give its name here _____

DO NOT ▼ CUT HERE JUST FOLD OVER SEAL AND MAIL —NO STAMP NECESSARY

Postage Will Be Paid by Addressee

Cheerful House
Dept. F-13
Westmoreland Avenue
White Plains, New York 10606

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
First-Class Permit No. 589, White Plains, New York

NO Postage Stamp Necessary If Mailed in the United States

WIN PRIZES OR GET Cash

MAKE FRIENDS

SELL Greeting Cards

BE HAPPY!

No Limit to the Number of Prizes (or Cash) you can Earn.

JUST A FEW SHOWN HERE

That's what being a Winner at J.S.C.A. is all about! IT COSTS YOU NOTHING!

DELUXE 2 BAND RADIO
Sell Only 2 Orders

HI-RISER FUN BIKE (BOYS OR GIRLS MODEL)
Sell Only 4 Orders

PUSHBUTTON CASSETTE RECORDER
Sell Only 3 Orders

CADET SLEEPING BAG
Sell Only 1 Order

SPALDING BALL GLOVE
Sell Only 1 Order

DAY-DATE WRISTWATCH
Sell Only 1 Order

INSTANT LOAD FLASH CAMERA OUTFIT
Sell Only 1 Order

300 PIECE 2-in-1 FISHING OUTFIT
Sell Only 2 Orders

COX SUPER SPORT TRAINER
Sell Only 1 Order

SPALDING TENNIS RACKET
Sell Only 1 Order

PROFESSIONAL STYLE HAIR DRYER
Sell Only 2 Orders

BALL RADIO
Sell Only 1 Order

MODEL HONDA ENGINE KIT
Sell Only 1 Order

TABLE TOP POOL TABLE
Sell Only 1 Order

ESTES ROCKET KIT
Sell Only 1 Order

FULL SIZE WOOD GUITAR
Sell Only 2 Orders

UMBRELLA TENT
Sell Only 2 Orders

STEREO MODULAR SYSTEM
Sell Only 3 Orders

POP 'N' SERVE CORN POPPER
Sell Only 1 Order

LE MANS STICK-SHIFT PRO RACING
Sell Only 3 Orders

ILLUMINATED BINOCULAR MICROSCOPE LAB
Sell Only 2 Orders

COX ACTION VAN WITH GAS MODELER'S KIT
Sell Only 2 Orders

ELECTRONIC TREASURE DETECTOR
Sell Only 2 Orders

INTERCOM TELEPHONES
Sell Only 1 Order

OFFICIAL ELECTRIC FOOTBALL
Sell Only 1 Order

10 SPEED GENUINE RACING BIKE
Sell Only 6 Orders

GIRLS TWINKLETIME WRISTWATCH
Sell Only 1 Order

SENIOR CHEMISTRY LAB
Sell Only 1 Order

WALKIE-TALKIE AND CODE SENDER
Sell Only 2 Orders

GLASS BOW ARCHERY
Sell Only 1 Order

YUCCA PACK AND FRAME
Sell Only 1 Order

4-PLAYER CROQUET SET
Sell Only 1 Order

40X TELESCOPE WITH TRIPOD
Sell Only 1 Order

Winning great prizes is fun the easy J.S.C.A. way.

Enroll now as a member of the Junior Sales Club of America. We'll send you a Free Prize Catalog, Membership Card, full selling information plus your first order of 12 boxes of elegant All Occasion Greeting Cards or sensational new Christmas Cards. As each order is sold, you may reorder additional cards until you've met your prize requirement. Cards are sent on credit. YOU PAY NOTHING IN ADVANCE.

Each box of 21 fine quality greeting cards costs just $2.00. That's less than 10¢ a card. Think of all the people you know — relatives, friends, neighbors — who'll want to buy these handsome cards by the box. Many J.S.C.A. members have earned a prize in only a few hours. IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY TAKE AS YOUR PRIZE 70¢ FOR EACH BOX YOU SELL.

Just fill out and mail the coupon-reply card to receive your first order of greeting cards. You may take up to 30 days to sell them. If after that time you have any boxes unsold, promptly return them prepaid by parcel post, keeping 70¢ for each box you've sold.

Get the prizes you want the fast, easy J.S.C.A. way. Act now!

MAIL YOUR POSTAGE-PAID REPLY CARD NOW!

Junior Sales Club of America
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01101

FILL IN COUPON—REPLY CARD • CUT & MAIL TODAY • NO STAMP NEEDED

CHECK CARDS DESIRED

Send me my first order of 12 Greeting Card Boxes to sell as checked below

Check one only: ☐ Christmas ☐ All Occasion Cards

Name

Address Apt. No.

City State Zip

Parent's Signature

Fold Over Here ↓ Don't Cut! Do Seal (Paste, Staple or Scotch Tape) ↓ No Stamp Needed!

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Business Reply Mail
No postage necessary if mailed in United States

Postage Will Be Paid By

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SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01101

WIN ONE OF 250

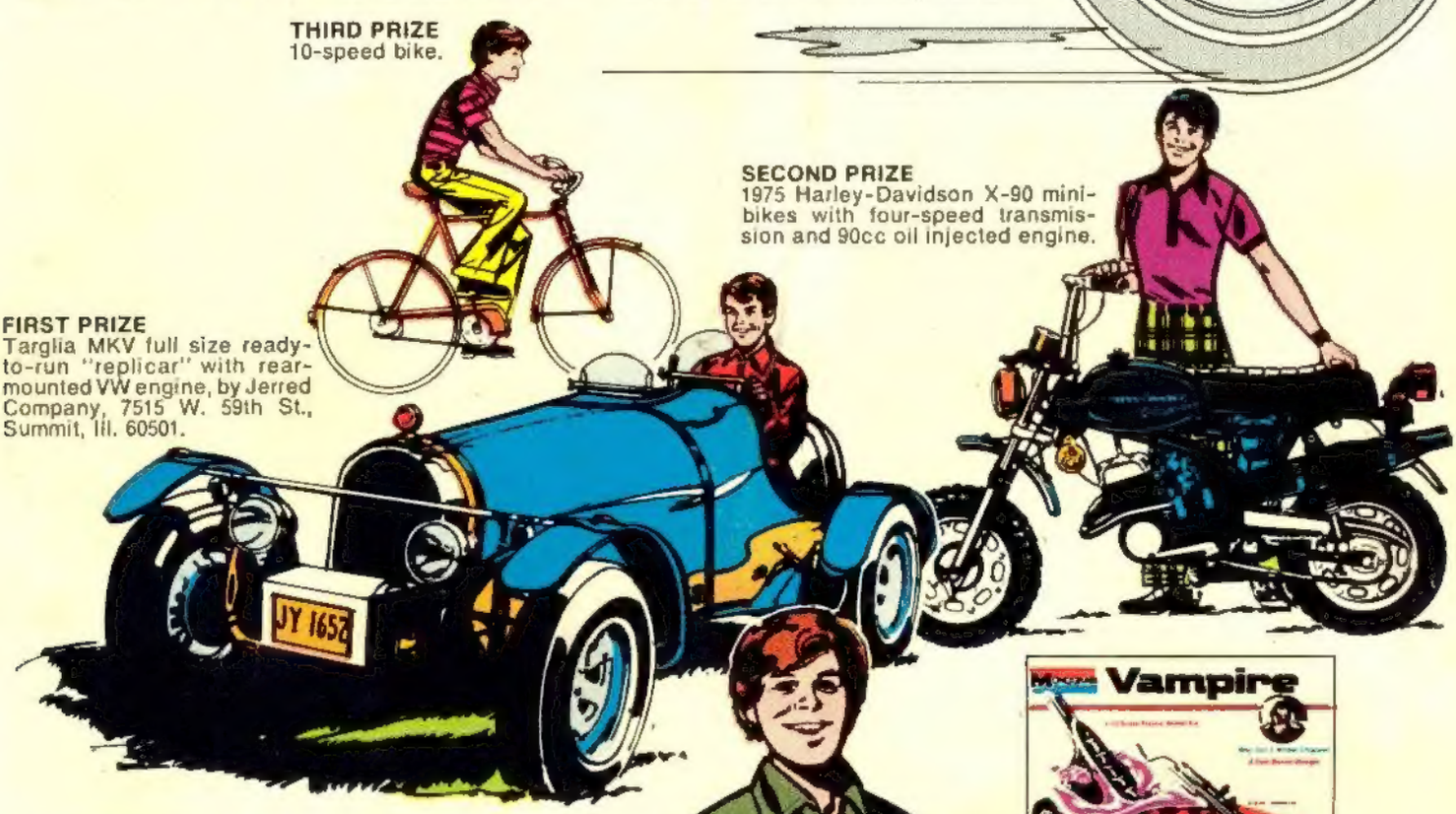
BIG WHEEL PRIZES

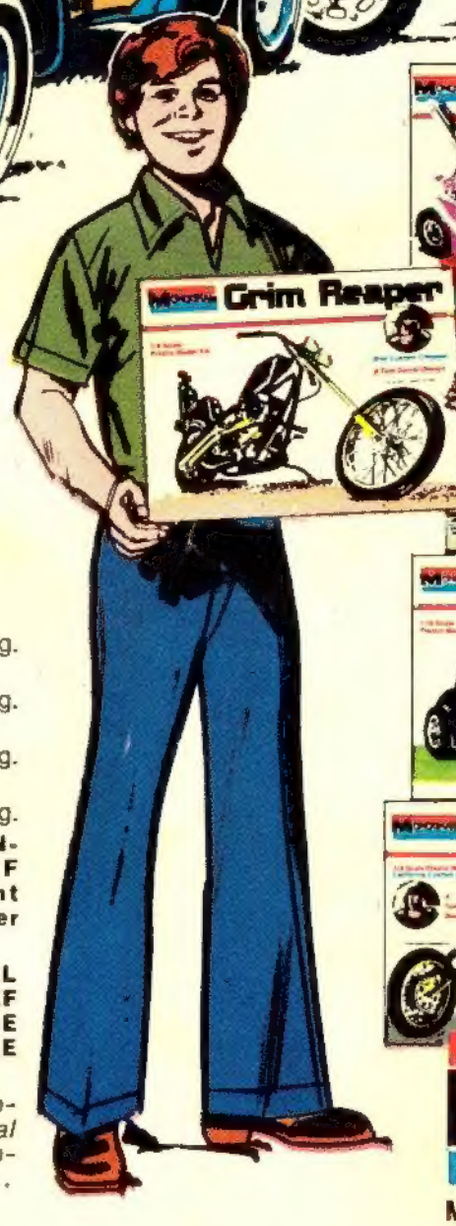
ENTER MONOGRAM'S BIG WHEEL/BIG DEAL CONTEST

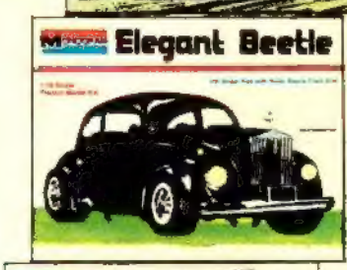
THIRD PRIZE
10-speed bike.

SECOND PRIZE
1975 Harley-Davidson X-90 mini-bikes with four-speed transmission and 90cc oil injected engine.

FIRST PRIZE
Targlia MKV full size ready-to-run "replicar" with rear-mounted VW engine, by Jerred Company, 7515 W. 59th St., Summit, Ill. 60501.







FIRST PRIZE:

A replica of the famous classic car of the '20's . . . A "Bugatti" style, full-size sports car. An actual street ready car complete with a VW engine. Completely assembled and delivered to you anywhere in the U.S.

6 SECOND PRIZES
1975 Harley-Davidson X-90 mini-bikes.

8 THIRD PRIZES:
10-speed racing bicycles.

10 FOURTH PRIZES:
$50 selection of Monogram kits from our new catalog.

25 FIFTH PRIZES:
$35 selection of Monogram kits from our new catalog.

25 SIXTH PRIZES:
$25 selection of Monogram kits from our new catalog.

175 SEVENTH PRIZES:
$10 selection of Monogram kits from our new catalog.

AN ENTRY BLANK FOR THIS SUPER CONTEST IS CONTAINED IN EVERY ONE OF MONOGRAM'S BIG-SCALE KITS (Elegant Beetle, Muscle Bug, Satan's Cycle, Grim Reaper and Vampire).

SEND THE ENTRY BLANK AND END PANEL OF THE KIT YOU SELECTED, AND A BRIEF LETTER (50 words or less) on "WHY I CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR MONOGRAM BIG-SCALE KIT."

So rush down to your dealer and buy one of Monogram's Big-Scale Kits for $3.99 or less (a special "Big Deal" price for this contest) and enter Monogram's "Big Wheel/Big Deal" Contest. But hurry . . .

THE CONTEST ENDS FEB. 15TH 1975.

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MORTON GROVE, ILL. 60053

Monogram's "Big Wheel/Big Deal" Contest...It's a model builder's dream come true!